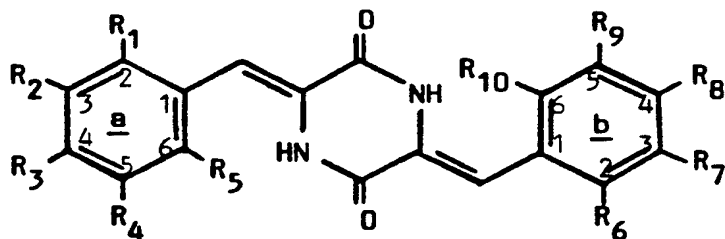




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(54) Title: PHARMACEUTICALLY ACTIVE DIKETOPIPERAZINES



(A)

## (57) Abstract

A diketopiperazine of formula (A) wherein each of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$ , which may be the same or different, is independently selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more hydrogen atoms,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, optionally substituted phenyl, -cyano,  $-CH_2COOH$ ,  $-CH_2OH$ ,  $-CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-NHCOR^{11}$ ,  $-NHCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-SO_2R^{13}$ ,  $-CON(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-SOR^{13}$ ,  $-SO_2N(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-N(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nN(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2NHCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2NHCOOR^{13}$ ,  $-CH_2SR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2SCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2S(O)_mR^{13}$  wherein  $m$  is 1 or 2,  $-CH_2NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-N(R^{11})COR^{12}$ ,  $-NHCOCF_3$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nOCOR^{11}$  and  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nOR^{11}$  wherein  $n$  is 0 or is an integer of from 1 to 6, each of  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  is independently H or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl and  $R^{13}$  is  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl; or any of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  and  $R_4$  and  $R_5$ , or  $R_6$  and  $R_7$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$ ,  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  and  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$ , form together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached a benzene ring which is optionally substituted; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters thereof; are inhibitors of the plasminogen activator inhibitor.

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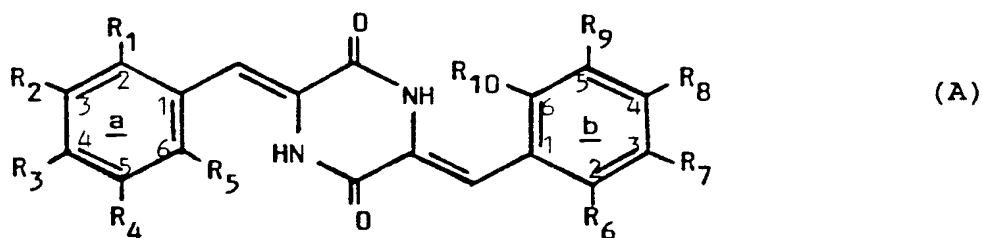
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## Pharmaceutically active diketopiperazines

The present invention relates to compounds useful as inhibitors of plasminogen activator inhibitor (PAI), to their preparation and to pharmaceutical and veterinary compositions containing them.

Plasminogen activators (PAs) are serine proteases which control the activation of the zymogen, plasminogen, to the active enzyme plasmin. Plasmin is important in a number of physiological and pathological processes including fibrinolysis, tissue remodelling, tumour growth and metastasis. The glycoprotein plasminogen activator inhibitor (PAI) is an endogenous fast-acting inhibitor of PA activity. PAI is a member of the serpin family and is synthesised by a variety of cells including endothelial cells. An imbalance between PAs and PAI contributes to a number of pathological conditions including haemostasis, inflammation, tumour growth and metastasis.

The present invention provides the use of a diketopiperazine of formula (A):



wherein each of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$ , which may be the same or different, is independently selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, optionally substituted phenyl, cyano,  $-CH_2OH$ ,  $-CH_2COOH$ ,  $-CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-NHCOR^{11}$ ,  $-NHCO_2R^{13}$ ,  $-SO_2R^{13}$ ,  $-CON(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-SOR^{13}$ ,  $-SO_2N(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-N(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nN(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2NHCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2NHCO_2R^{13}$ ,  $-CH_2SR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2SCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2S(O)_mR^{13}$  wherein  $m$  is 1 or 2,  $-CH_2NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-N(R^{11})COR^{12}$ ,  $-NHCOCF_3$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,

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-NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OCOR<sup>11</sup> and -NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OR<sup>11</sup> wherein n is 0 or is an integer of from 1 to 6, each of R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> is independently H or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl and R<sup>13</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl; or any of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub>, or R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>8</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub>, form together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached a benzene ring which is optionally substituted; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof; in the manufacture of a medicament for use as an inhibitor of plasminogen activator inhibitor.

10       The numerals 1 to 10 denote ring positions on the phenyl groups in formula A. The letters a and b refer to the two phenyl rings themselves.

      When any two adjacent groups of R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> form, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, a benzene ring, that ring is either unsubstituted or it may be substituted by any of the options specified above for R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>10</sub>. The benzene ring forms, together with ring a or b respectively, an optionally substituted naphthalene ring structure.

20       When ring a or b is substituted phenyl, the benzene ring may be substituted at any of the ortho, meta and para positions by one or more substituents, for example one, two or three substituents, which may be the same or different, independently selected from the groups specified above for R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> other than hydrogen.

      A C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group is typically a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl group, for example a methyl, ethyl, propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, sec-butyl or tert-butyl group. A halogen is, for example, fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine. A C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl group substituted by halogen may be substituted by 1, 2 or 3 halogen atoms. It may be a perhaloalkyl group, for example trifluoromethyl.

30       A C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy group is typically a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy group, for example a methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, i-propoxy, n-butoxy, sec-butoxy or tert-butoxy group. A C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkylthio group is typically a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkylthio group, for

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example methylthio, ethylthio, propylthio, i-propylthio, n-butylthio, sec-butylthio or tert-butylthio.

In compounds of formula A free rotation may occur at room temperature about the single bonds connecting rings a and b to the double bonds at positions 3 and 6 of the piperazine-2,5-dione ring. Positions 2 and 6, and positions 3 and 5, in both rings a and b can therefore be considered as equivalent. As a consequence the following pairs of substituents can be viewed as interchangeable: R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>5</sub>; R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>; R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>10</sub>; and R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>9</sub>.

Preferably one of rings a and b is unsubstituted or is mono-substituted whilst the other ring is unsubstituted or is substituted at one or more of positions 2 to 6. The ring which is mono-substituted may carry the substituent at any one of positions 2 to 6, for instance position 3 or 4, especially position 4. Thus for instance, when ring b is mono-substituted, one of R<sub>6</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> is other than hydrogen, preferably R<sub>7</sub> or R<sub>8</sub>, especially R<sub>8</sub>. When ring a is mono-substituted, one of R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>5</sub> is other than hydrogen, preferably R<sub>2</sub> or R<sub>3</sub>, especially R<sub>3</sub>. When one of rings a and b is mono-substituted the substituent R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>5</sub>, or R<sub>6</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> respectively, is preferably selected from a halogen, for instance fluorine; an alkoxy group, for instance OMe; and an acetamido group -NHAc in which Ac denotes acetyl.

When one of rings a and b is unsubstituted, or is mono-substituted as described in the above paragraph, the other ring may bear any desired substitution pattern. For instance, the other ring may be unsubstituted or may be mono-, di- or tri-substituted at any of positions 2 to 6.

The said other ring may, for instance, be mono-substituted at any of positions 2 to 6. It may also be 2,3-, 2,4-, 2,5-, 2,6-, 3,4- or 3,5- disubstituted, or 2,3,4-, 2,3,5-, 2,3,6- or 3,4,5-trisubstituted. Thus, when the said other ring is a and is mono-substituted, four of R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>5</sub> are hydrogen and one is other than hydrogen. When the said other ring is ring a and is disubstituted, three

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of  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are hydrogen and two are other than hydrogen. For example  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , or  $R_1$  and  $R_3$ , or  $R_1$  and  $R_4$ , or  $R_1$  and  $R_5$ , or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , or  $R_2$  and  $R_4$  are other than hydrogen whilst, in each case, the other three of  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are  
5 hydrogen.

When the said other ring is ring a and is trisubstituted, two of  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are hydrogen and three are other than hydrogen. For example,  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , or  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_4$ , or  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_5$ , or  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  are other than  
10 hydrogen whilst, in each case, the other two of  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are hydrogen.

When the said ring is b and is mono-substituted, four of  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are hydrogen and one is other than hydrogen. When the said other ring is b and is di-substituted, three  
15 of  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are hydrogen and two are other than hydrogen. For example  $R_6$  and  $R_7$ , or  $R_6$  and  $R_8$ , or  $R_6$  and  $R_9$ , or  $R_6$  and  $R_{10}$ , or  $R_7$  and  $R_8$ , or  $R_7$  and  $R_9$ , are other than hydrogen whilst, in each case, the other three of  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are hydrogen. When the said other ring is b and is  
20 trisubstituted, two of  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are hydrogen and three are other than hydrogen. For example  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$ , or  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_9$ , or  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_{10}$ , or  $R_7$ ,  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  are other than hydrogen whilst, in each case, the other two of  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are hydrogen.

25 Alternatively, any two adjacent substituents in the said other ring may, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, complete a second benzene ring which is optionally substituted, thus forming an optionally substituted naphthyl group with the said other ring. For  
30 instance, in ring a  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ , or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  may form together with carbon atoms 2 and 3, or 3 and 4 respectively, an optionally substituted benzene ring which, in turn, forms with ring a a naphthyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more groups  
35 specified above for  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$ . In ring b  $R_6$  and  $R_7$ , or  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  may form, together with carbon atoms 2 and 3 or 3

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and 4 respectively, an optionally substituted benzene ring which, in turn, forms with ring b a naphthyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more groups specified above for  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$ . Typically the naphthyl group in either case is unsubstituted or is monosubstituted at position 1,2,3 or 4 of the naphthalene ring structure, especially position 4. For example  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  together with ring a, or  $R_6$  and  $R_7$  with ring b, form a 4-dimethylamino-1-naphthyl group.

10 In a preferred series of compounds of formula A each of  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  is hydrogen. In another preferred series of compounds, one of  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  is selected from alkoxy,  $\text{NHCOR}^{11}$  and halogen and the other four of  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are H. Alkoxy may be, for instance, OMe or  $\text{OBu}^n$ .  $\text{NHCOR}^{11}$  is typically -  
15  $\text{NHAc}$ . Halogen is typically F or Cl. Preferably  $R_8$  is alkoxy, especially OMe or  $\text{OBu}^n$ ;  $\text{NHCOR}^{11}$ , especially  $-\text{NHAc}$ ; or halogen, especially F or Cl; and each of  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  is H.

In the above-mentioned series of preferred compounds  
20  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are all hydrogen, or one or two of  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are other than hydrogen whilst the others are hydrogen. For instance one of  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  is other than hydrogen. Alternatively  $R_1$  and  $R_3$ , or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , are other than hydrogen. Preferred values for the one or two of  $R_1$  to  $R_5$   
25 which is or are other than hydrogen include alkoxy such as OMe or  $\text{OBu}^n$ , halogen such as Cl or F, hydroxy,  $-\text{N}(\text{R}^{11}\text{R}^{12})$ ,  $-\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{11}$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{SCOR}^{13}$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{SR}^{11}$ ,  $-\text{NHCOR}^{11}$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{N}(\text{R}^{11}\text{R}^{12})$ ,  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{11}$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{NHCO}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{CO}_2\text{R}^{11}$ ,  $-\text{NHCOCH}_2\text{OR}^{11}$ ,  $-\text{NHCO}(\text{CH}_2)_n\text{OCOR}^{11}$ ,  $-\text{CH}_2\text{NHCOOR}^{13}$  and  $\text{CF}_3$ . It is also preferred  
30 for  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  or  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  to form, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, a benzene ring.

Particularly preferred compounds are those wherein  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are each H,  $R_8$  is selected from H, OMe and  
35  $-\text{NHAc}$  and each of  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  is as specified above. In these preferred compounds  $R^1$  to  $R^5$  are preferably each

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independently selected from H, halogen, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, nitro, -CH<sub>2</sub>SCOR<sup>11</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>SR<sup>11</sup>, -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, -OCOR<sup>13</sup>, CF<sub>3</sub>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>N(R<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>), -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, -NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OR<sup>11</sup>, -N(R<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>), -NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OCOR<sup>11</sup>, -NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup> and -CH<sub>2</sub>NHCO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup> or R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub>, or R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub>, form with the carbon atoms to which they are attached an optionally substituted benzene ring. Still more preferably, R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently H, nitro or halogen, R<sub>3</sub> is H, hydroxy, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>N(R<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>), -OCOR<sup>11</sup>, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OR<sup>11</sup>, -NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OCOR<sup>11</sup>, -N(R<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>), -CH<sub>2</sub>NHCO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>13</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>SR<sup>11</sup> or -NHCOR<sup>11</sup>; R<sub>4</sub> is H, halogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy, -CH<sub>2</sub>SCOR<sup>11</sup>, -CH<sub>2</sub>SR<sup>11</sup> or -CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup>; and R<sub>5</sub> is H, nitro or halogen; or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>3</sub> and R<sub>4</sub> or R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> form, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, an optionally substituted benzene ring.

In one embodiment R<sub>8</sub> is NHAc, each of R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> is H; R<sub>1</sub> is H or halogen such as Cl or F; R<sub>2</sub> is H, R<sub>3</sub> is halogen such as F or Cl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkoxy such as OMe, -N(R<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>) such as NMe<sub>2</sub> or -NHCOOR<sup>13</sup> such as -NHCOOBu<sup>t</sup>; R<sub>4</sub> is H and R<sub>5</sub> is halogen such as F, Cl, Br, or is CF<sub>3</sub>.

In a second embodiment R<sub>8</sub> is OMe, each of R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> is H; R<sup>1</sup> is H, nitro or halogen such as Cl; R<sup>2</sup> is H; R<sub>3</sub> is H, hydroxy, -OCOR<sup>11</sup> such as OAc, -NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>OCOR<sup>11</sup> such as -NHCOCH<sub>2</sub>OAc or -NHCOCH<sub>2</sub>OR<sup>11</sup> such as -NHCOCH<sub>2</sub>OH; R<sub>4</sub> is H and R<sub>5</sub> is H or halogen such as F or Cl; or R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> form a benzene ring together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached.

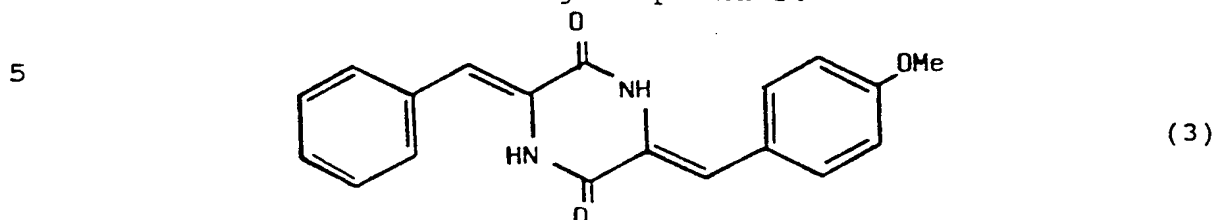
In a third embodiment each of R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>6</sub>, R<sub>7</sub>, R<sub>8</sub>, R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> is H; R<sub>2</sub> is H and R<sub>3</sub> is -CH<sub>2</sub>SR<sup>11</sup> such as -CH<sub>2</sub>SMe, -CH<sub>2</sub>SCOR<sup>11</sup> such as -CH<sub>2</sub>Sac, -NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup> such as -NHCO(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>Me, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>11</sup> such as -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>4</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>H, -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>N(R<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>) such as -O(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>3</sub>-NMe<sub>2</sub>, or -N(R<sup>11</sup>R<sup>12</sup>) such as -NMe<sub>2</sub> or R<sub>2</sub> is -CH<sub>2</sub>SCOR<sup>13</sup> such as -CH<sub>2</sub>Sac or -CH<sub>2</sub>SR<sup>11</sup> such as -CH<sub>2</sub>SH and R<sub>3</sub> is H; and R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are both H or both form, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached,



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a benzene ring.

In one embodiment of the invention the compound of formula A is the following compound 3:



Certain diketopiperazines have been disclosed as having utility as bioactive agents. Yokoi et al in J. Antibiotics vol XLI No. 4, pp 494-501 (1988) describe structure-cytotoxicity relationship studies on a series of diketopiperazines related to neihumicin, a compound obtained from the micro-organism Micromonospora neihuensis. Kamei et al in J. Antibiotics vol XLIII No. 8, 1018-1020 disclose that two diketopiperazines, designated piperafazines A and B, have utility as potentiators of the cytotoxicity of vincristine.

General formula A embraces diketopiperazines which are novel. Accordingly, the present invention provides a diketopiperazine of formula (A) as defined above, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof; with the exception of compounds wherein:

- (i) each of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  is H;
- (ii)  $R_1$  and  $R_6$  are both Cl and the rest of  $R_2$  to  $R_{10}$  are H;  $R_2$  and  $R_7$  are both Cl and the rest of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  are H;  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  are both Me and the rest of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  are H;  $R_2$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_{10}$  are all Me and the rest of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  are H;  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  are all OMe and  $R_1$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_{10}$  are H;
- (iii)  $R_8$  is OMe and the rest of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  are H; and
- (iv) 3-p-nitrobenzylidene-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione and 3,6-di-p-nitrobenzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione.

Examples of specific compounds of formula A are as follows. The compound numbering is adhered to in the rest of the specification:

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- (3Z,6Z)-6-benzylidene-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 3)
- (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2,6-dichlorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 21)
- 5 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetoxybenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 23)
- (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 74)
- 3,6-Dibenzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 22)
- 10 (mixture of isomers)
- (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3-nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 24)
- (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2-nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 65)
- 15 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-ethoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 25)
- (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-cyanobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 105)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Aminobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-
- 20 piperazinedione (compound 30)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(3-Acetoxybenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 31)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Acetoxybenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 32)
- 25 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3-hydroxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 33)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 34)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-
- 30 piperazinedione (compound 38)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Aminobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 39)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetoxyethylbenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 43)
- 35 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidomethylbenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 44)

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- (3Z,6Z)-3,6-Dibenzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 45)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-butoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 48)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-tert-butylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 51)  
5 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-isopropoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 52)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2,4-difluorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 54)  
10 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2-bromobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 55)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-methylthiomethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 59)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3-thioacetoxymethylbenzylidene)-  
15 2,5-piperazinedione (compound 61)  
3-((3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)methylbenzoic acid, methyl ester (compound 62)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3-mercaptomethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 64)  
20 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino benzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 66)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-(3-N,N-dimethylaminopropoxy)benzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 75)  
25 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-thioacetoxymethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 76)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2-chloro-4-hydroxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 85)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3,4-dimethoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 90)  
30 4-[(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene]methylphenoxyacetic acid, methyl ester (compound 93)  
4-(4-[(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene]methylbenzylcarbonyl) butanoic acid, methyl ester  
35 (compound 94)

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- 4-(4-((3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)methylbenzylcarbamoyle)pentanoic acid, methyl ester (compound 95)
- 5-4-((3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)methylphenoxy]pentanoic acid, methyl ester (compound 96)
- 5-4-((3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)methylphenoxy]pentanoic acid (compound 97)
- (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy)benzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione, hydrochloride (compound 99)
- (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy)benzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 102)
- 4-[(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene]methylphenoxyacetic acid (compound 101)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 26)
- (3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-3-(2-nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 28)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2,6-Dichlorobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 29)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Hydroxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 36)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 37)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-N-methylacetamidobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 41)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methylsulfonylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 46)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Butoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 47)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-isopropoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 49)

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- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-tert-butylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 50)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Bromobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 53)
- 5 (3Z,6Z)-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-tert-butoxycarbonylaminomethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 56)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methylthiomethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 57)
- 10 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methylsulfonylmethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 60)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(3-thioacetoxymethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 63)
- 15 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Aminomethylbenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 67)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2,4-Difluorobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 69)
- 20 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(2-trifluoromethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 70)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2,4-Dimethoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 73)
- 25 4-[(3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene] methylbenzamide (compound 80)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-trimethylacetoxymethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 81)
- 30 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxycarbonylaminobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 83)
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Chloro-4-hydroxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 84)
- 35 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetoxycetylaminobenzylidene)-6-(4-

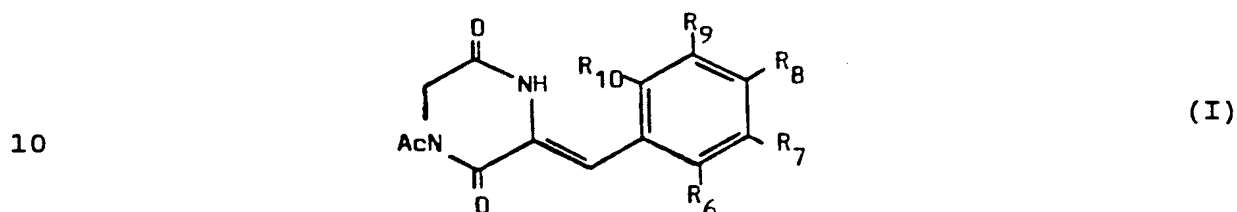
- 12 -

- methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 87)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(3,4-Dimethoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 91)  
4-((3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)-4-methylbenzylcarbonyl)butanoic acid, methyl ester (compound 100)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(2-naphthylmethylene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 27)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Hydroxyacetylaminobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 88)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 34)  
(3Z,6Z)-3,6-Di-(3-Nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 35)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(2,6-dichlorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 40)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-chlorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 42)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-acetoxymethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 58)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(2-fluorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 71)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 72)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-(Benzylidene)-3-(2,4-difluorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 76)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-3-(2-trifluoromethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 78)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-3-(2-bromobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 79)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-trimethylacetoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 82)  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-dimethylaminobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (compound 86)

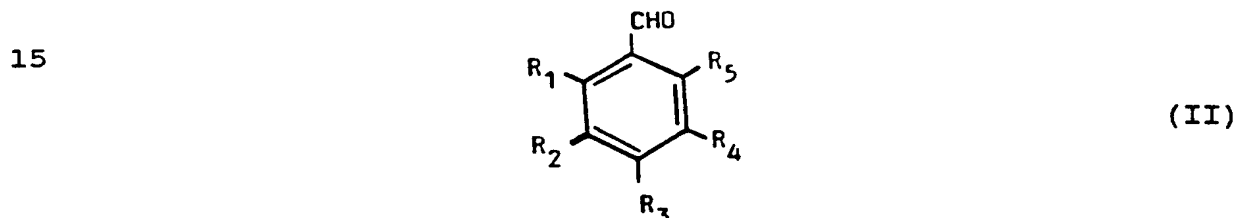
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(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-tert-  
butoxycarbonylaminomethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(compound 68)

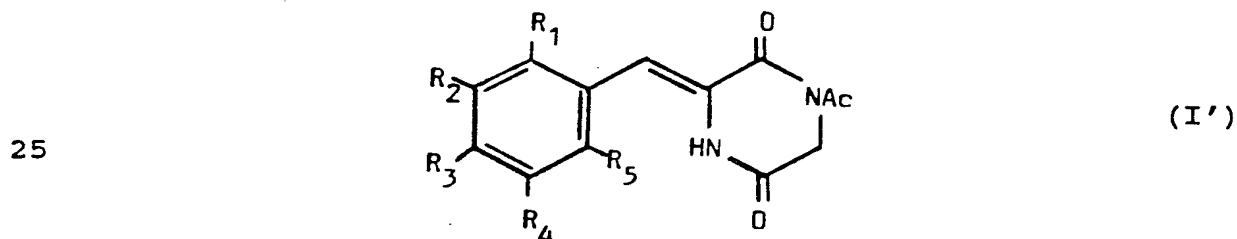
Compounds of formula A, both known and novel, may be  
5 prepared by a process which comprises either (i) condensing  
compound of formula (I)



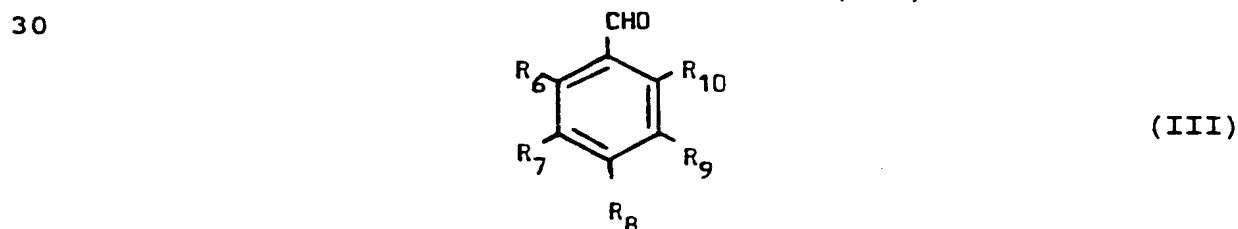
wherein  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are as defined above and are optionally  
protected, with a compound of formula (II):



wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are defined above and are optionally  
20 protected, in the presence of a base in an organic solvent;  
or (ii) condensing a compound of formula (I'):



wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are as defined above and are optionally  
protected, with a compound of formula (III):



35 wherein  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are as defined above and are optionally  
protected, in the presence of a base in an organic solvent;

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and, in either case (i) or (ii), if required, removing optionally present protecting groups and/or, if desired, converting one compound of formula A into another compound of formula A, and/or, if desired, converting a compound of formula A into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and/or, if desired, converting a salt or ester into a free compound, and/or, if desired, separating a mixture of isomers of compounds of formula A into the single isomers.

10       A compound of formula A produced directly by the condensation reaction between (I) and (II) or (I') and (III) may be modified, if desired, by converting one or more of groups  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  into different groups  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$ . These optional conversions may be carried out by methods known in themselves. For example, a compound of formula A in which one or more of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  is an ester group may be converted to a compound of formula A wherein the corresponding substituent is a free  $-COOH$  group, by acid or alkaline hydrolysis at a suitable temperature, for example from ambient temperature to  $100^\circ C$ .

20       A compound of formula A in which one or more of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  is a  $-CO_2H$  group may be converted into a compound of formula A wherein the corresponding substituent is esterified by esterification, for example by treating the carboxylic acid with a suitable  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl alcohol in the presence of 1,3-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide in an inert solvent.

25       A compound of formula A in which one or more of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  is a free  $-CO_2H$  group may be converted into a compound of formula A in which the corresponding substituent is a group  $-CON(R^{11}R^{12})$ , wherein  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  are as defined above, for example by treatment with ammonia or an amine in the presence of 1,3-dicyclohexylcarbodiimide in an inert solvent.

35       A compound of formula A in which one or more of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  is a free  $-CO_2H$  group may be converted into a compound



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of formula A wherein the corresponding substituent is a -CH<sub>2</sub>OH group by reduction, for example using borane in a suitable solvent such as tetrahydrofuran.

5 A compound of formula A in which one or more of R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> is a nitro group may be converted into a compound of formula A in which the corresponding substituent is an amino group by reduction under standard conditions, for example by catalytic hydrogenation.

10 Protecting groups for R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> in any of the compounds of formulae (I), (I'), (II) and (III) are optionally introduced prior to step (i) or step (ii) when any of groups R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> are groups which are sensitive to the condensation reaction conditions or incompatible with the condensation reaction, for example a -COOH, -CH<sub>2</sub>OH or  
15 amino group. The protecting groups are then removed at the end of the process. Any conventional protecting group suitable for the group R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>10</sub> in question may be employed, and may be introduced and subsequently removed by well-known standard methods.

20 The condensation reaction between compounds (I) and (II) or (I') and (III) is suitably performed in the presence of a base which is potassium t-butoxide, sodium hydride, potassium carbonate, sodium carbonate, caesium carbonate, sodium acetate, potassium fluoride on alumina, or triethylamine in a solvent such as dimethylformamide, or  
25 in the presence of potassium t-butoxide in t-butanol or a mixture of t-butanol and dimethylformamide. The reaction is typically performed at a temperature from 0°C to the reflux temperature of the solvent.

30 The compounds of formula (I) may be prepared by a process comprising reacting 1,4-diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione with a compound of formula (III) as defined above, in the presence of a base in an organic solvent. Similarly, the compounds of formula (I') may be prepared by  
35 a process which comprises reacting 1,4-diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione with a compound of formula (II) as defined

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above, in the presence of a base in an organic solvent.

If necessary, the resulting compound of formula (I) or (I') can be separated from other reaction products by chromatography.

5       The reaction of 1,4-diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione with the compound of formula (III) or (II) is suitably performed under the same conditions as described above for the condensation between compounds (I) and (II), or (I') and (III).

10       The substituted benzaldehydes of formulae (II) and (III) are known compounds or can be prepared from readily available starting materials by conventional methods. The 1,4-diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione used as a starting material in the preparation of compounds of formula (I) may  
15 be prepared by treating 2,5-piperazinedione (glycine anhydride) with an acetylating agent. The acetylation may be performed using any conventional acetylating agent, for example acetic anhydride under reflux or, alternatively, acetic anhydride at a temperature below reflux in the  
20 presence of 4-dimethylaminopyridine.

Compounds of formula (I) may also be prepared by the microwave irradiation of a mixture comprising 1,4-diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione, a compound of formula (III) and potassium fluoride on alumina (as base) in the absence of  
25 solvent.

Compounds of formula (I) may alternatively be prepared directly from 2,5-piperazinedione (glycine anhydride) by a process which comprises treating the 2,5-piperazinedione with a mixture comprising a compound of  
30 formula (III), sodium acetate and acetic anhydride at an elevated temperature, for example under reflux.

Compounds of formula (I') may be prepared by analogous processes, replacing compound (III) in each case by a compound of formula (II).

35       Compounds of formula A may also be prepared by a process comprising the microwave irradiation of (i) a

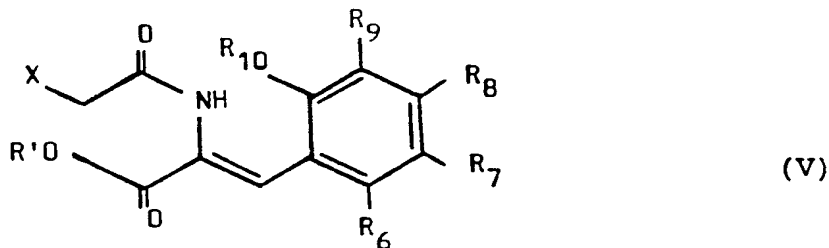
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mixture comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined above, a compound of formula (II) and potassium fluoride on alumina, or (ii) a mixture comprising a compound of formula (I') a compound of formula (III) and potassium fluoride on alumina, or (iii) a mixture comprising 1,4-diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione, a compound of formula (II), a compound of formula (III) and potassium fluoride on alumina. The irradiation is performed in the absence of a solvent.

Compounds of formula (A) may also be obtained directly by a process which comprises condensing together 1,4-diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione, a compound of formula (II) and a compound of formula (III) in the presence of a base in an organic solvent. Suitable bases, solvents and reaction conditions are as described above for the condensation reaction between, for example, compounds (I) and (II).

An alternative direct process for the preparation of compounds of formula (A) comprises condensing together 2,5-piperazinedione, a compound of formula (II) and a compound of formula (III) in the presence of sodium acetate and acetic anhydride at elevated temperature, for example under reflux.

An alternative process for the preparation of compounds of formula (I) comprises treating a compound of formula (V):

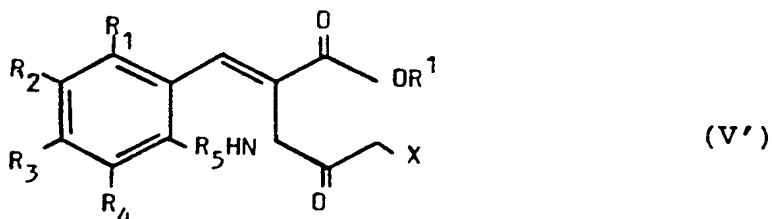


wherein  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are as defined above, X is a halogen and  $R'$  is a  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl group, with ammonia followed by acetic anhydride.

Compounds of formula (I') may be prepared by an analogous process which comprises treating a compound of

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formula (V'):



wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$ ,  $X$  and  $R^1$  are as defined above, with ammonia followed by acetic anhydride.

10  $X$  in formula (V) or (V') is typically iodine.  $R^1$  is, for example, a  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl group such as a methyl, ethyl, propyl, i-propyl, butyl, sec-butyl or tert-butyl group.

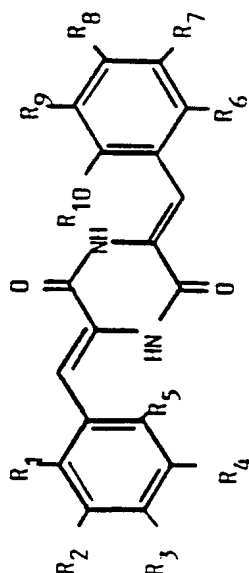
A review of synthetic approaches to unsaturated 3-monosubstituted and 3,6-disubstituted-2,5-piperazinediones is provided in Heterocycles, 1983, 20, 1407 (C.Shin).

15 Compounds of formula (A) may be converted into pharmaceutically acceptable salts, and salts may be converted into the free compound, by conventional methods. Suitable salts include salts with pharmaceutically acceptable, inorganic or organic, bases. Examples of  
20 inorganic bases include ammonia and carbonates, hydroxides and hydrogen carbonates of group I and group II metals such as sodium, potassium, magnesium and calcium. Examples of organic bases include aliphatic and aromatic amines such as methylamine, triethylamine, benzylamine, dibenzylamine or  
25  $\alpha$ - or  $\beta$ -phenylethylamine, and heterocyclic bases such as piperidine, 1-methylpiperidine and morpholine.

Compounds of formula (A) may also be converted into pharmaceutically acceptable esters. Suitable esters include branched or unbranched, saturated or unsaturated  
30  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl esters, for example methyl, ethyl and vinyl esters.

Preferred compounds of formula A are depicted by means of their substitution patterns in Table 1 which follows. The compound numbering is adhered to in the rest  
35 of the specification. Characterising data for the compounds are set out in Table 2 in Example 16.

TABLE 1



COMPOUND NO.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>	R <sub>9</sub>	R <sub>10</sub>	PREPARED IN EXAMPLE
21	Cl	H	H	H	Cl	H	H	H	H	H	5
22	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	10
23	H	H	OAc	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	6
24	H	NO <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	6
25	H	H	OEt	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
26	H	H	NHAc	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
27	H		- Benzene -	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	14
28	NO <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	8
29	Cl	H	H	H	Cl	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
30	H	H	NH <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	13
31	H	OAc	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	6
32	OAc	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	6

COMPOUND NO.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>	R <sub>9</sub>	R <sub>10</sub>	PREPARED IN EXAMPLE
33	H	OH	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	13
34	H	H	NHAc	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
35	H	NO <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	H	NO <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	11
36	H	H	OH	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	13
37	H	H	OAc	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
38	NHAc	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
39	NH <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	13
40	H	H	NHAc	H	H	Cl	H	H	H	Cl	9
41	H	H	NMeAc	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
42	H	H	Cl	H	H	H	H	NHAc	H	H	9
43	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> OAc	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
44	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> NHAc	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
45	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
46	H	H	SO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
47	H	H	OBu <sup>n</sup>	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
48	H	H	OBu <sup>n</sup>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
49	H	H	OPr <sup>i</sup>	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
50	H	H	Bu <sup>t</sup>	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
51	H	H	Bu <sup>t</sup>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5

COMPOUND NO.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>	R <sub>9</sub>	R <sub>10</sub>	PREPARED IN EXAMPLE
52	H	H	OPr <sup>1</sup>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
53	Br	H	H	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
54	F	H	F	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
55	Br	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
56	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> NHBOC	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
57	H	H	OMe	H	H	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> SMe	H	H	7
58	H	H	NHAc	H	H	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> OAc	H	H	9
59	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> SMe	H	H	5
60	H	H	OMe	H	H	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	H	7
61	H	CH <sub>2</sub> SAC	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
62	H	CO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
63	H	CH <sub>2</sub> SAC	H	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
64	H	CH <sub>2</sub> SH	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	13
65	NO <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	6
66	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> NHBOC	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
67	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> NH <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	13
68	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> NHBOC	H	H	H	H	NHAc	H	H	9
69	F	H	F	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
70	CF <sub>3</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7

COMPOUND NO.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>	R <sub>9</sub>	R <sub>10</sub>	PREPARED IN EXAMPLE
71	F	H	H	H	H	H	H	NHAC	H	H	9
72	H	H	F	H	H	H	H	NHAC	H	H	9
73	OMe	H	OMe	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
74	H	H	NO <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	6
75	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>1</sub> NMe <sub>2</sub>	H	H	5
76	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> SAC	H	H	5
77	F	H	F	H	H	H	H	NHAC	H	H	9
78	CF <sub>3</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H	NHAC	H	H	9
79	Br	H	H	H	H	H	H	NHAC	H	H	9
80	H	H	OMe	H	H	H	H	CONH <sub>2</sub>	H	H	7
81	H	H	OMe	H	H	H	H	OCOBu <sup>t</sup>	H	H	7
82	H	H	NHAc	H	H	H	H	OCOBu <sup>t</sup>	H	H	9
83	H	H	NHCOOMe	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
84	Cl	H	OH	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
85	Cl	H	OH	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
86	H	H	NHAc	H	H	H	H	NMe <sub>2</sub>	H	H	12
87	H	H	NHCOCH <sub>2</sub> OAc	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
88	H	H	NHCOCH <sub>2</sub> OH	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	13
89	H	H	H	H	H	-Benzene-		NMe <sub>2</sub>	H	H	5



COMPOUND NO.	R <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>2</sub>	R <sub>3</sub>	R <sub>4</sub>	R <sub>5</sub>	R <sub>6</sub>	R <sub>7</sub>	R <sub>8</sub>	R <sub>9</sub>	R <sub>10</sub>	PREPARED IN EXAMPLE
90	H	OMe	OMe	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
91	H	OMe	OMe	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
92	H	OMe	OMe	H	H	H	H	NHAC	H	H	9
93	H	H	OCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
94	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> NHCO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
95	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> NHCO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Et	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
96	H	H	O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
97	H	H	O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>4</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	13
98	H	H	O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> NMe <sub>2</sub> ·HCl	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	15
99	H	H	O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NMe <sub>2</sub> ·HCl	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	15
100	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> NHCO(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> Me	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
101	H	H	OCH <sub>2</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	13
102	H	H	O(CH <sub>2</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> NMe <sub>2</sub>	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	5
103	F	H	H	H	H	H	H	OMe	H	H	7
104	H	H	CH <sub>2</sub> OH	H	H	H	H	NHAC	H	H	13
105	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	CN	H	H	6

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The diketopiperazines of formula (A), both novel and known and their pharmaceutically acceptable salts and esters (referred to hereinafter as the "present compounds") have utility as inhibitors of PAI. Elevated levels of PAI-1, by reducing the net endogenous fibrinolytic capacity, can contribute to the pathogenesis of various thrombotic disorders including myocardial infarction, deep vein thrombosis and disseminated intravascular coagulation. The present compounds therefore can act as inhibitors of the tPA/PAI-1 interaction. The present compounds can be used in the treatment of haemostatic disorders. A human or animal, e.g. a mammal, can therefore be treated by a method comprising administration of a therapeutically effective amount of a diketopiperazine of formula (A) or a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable salt thereof.

Tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) is used as a fibrinolytic agent in the treatment of thrombotic disorders. The efficacy of the tPA in this role may be enhanced if it is administered together with a PAI inhibitor. A human or animal, e.g. a mammal, can therefore be treated by a method comprising the combined administration of a therapeutically effective amount of tPA and a therapeutically effective amount of any one of the present compounds. The present invention also provides products containing a diketopiperazine of formula (A) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof and tPA as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of thrombotic disorders, for example where there is inappropriate PAI activity. In such products the present compound is formulated for oral or parenteral (intravenous, intramuscular or subcutaneous) administration and the tPA is formulated for intravenous administration.

As one example, during acute myocardial infarction (MI) one of the present compounds may be administered to a patient together with tPA to enhance the efficacy of the

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tpA treatment. As a further example, early re-occlusion following treatment of a patient with tPA may be prevented by the post-MI administration of one of the present compounds.

5       The compounds of formula (A) have been tested in a PAI functional assay. In this assay, a compound is incubated with PAI-1 prior to addition to the tPA assay system. Inhibition of PAI-1 results in the production of plasmin from plasminogen. In turn, plasmin cleaves the  
10   chromogenic substrate S2251 (Kabi Vitrum) producing pNA (p-nitroaniline) which is detected spectrophotometrically at 405 nm (K.Nilsson et al, Fibrinolysis (1987) 1, 163-168). The results of the assay are reported in Example 1 which follows.

15       The present compounds can be administered in a variety of dosage forms, for example orally such as in the form of tablets, capsules, sugar- or film-coated tablets, liquid solutions or suspensions or parenterally, for example intramuscularly, intravenously or subcutaneously.  
20   The present compounds may therefore be given by injection or infusion.

      The dosage depends on a variety of factors including the age, weight and condition of the patient and the route of administration. Typically, however, the dosage adopted  
25   for each route of administration when a compound of the invention is administered alone to adult humans is 0.001 to 10 mg/kg, most commonly in the range of 0.01 to 5 mg/kg, body weight. Such a dosage may be given, for example, from 1 to 5 times daily by bolus infusion, infusion over several  
30   hours and/or repeated administration.

      When one of the present compounds is administered in combination with tPA to adult humans, the dosage adopted for each route of administration is typically from 0.001 to 10 mg, more typically 0.01 to 5 mg per kg body weight for a  
35   compound of the invention and from 5 to 500mg administered intravenously for the tPA. A suitable dosage regimen for

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the tPA is 100 mg given intravenously over 3 hours as follows: 10% of the total dose as an i.v. bolus over 1-2 minutes, 50% of the total dose as an infusion over 1 hour, 40% of the total dose as an infusion over the subsequent 2  
5 hours.

A diketopiperazine of formula (A) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof is formulated for use as a pharmaceutical or veterinary composition also comprising a pharmaceutically or  
10 veterinarily acceptable carrier or diluent. The compositions are typically prepared following conventional methods and are administered in a pharmaceutically or veterinarily suitable form. An agent for use as an inhibitor of PAI comprising any one of the present  
15 compounds is therefore provided.

For example, the solid oral forms may contain, together with the active compound, diluents such as lactose, dextrose, saccharose, cellulose, corn starch or potato starch; lubricants such as silica, talc, stearic  
20 acid, magnesium or calcium stearate and/or polyethylene glycols; binding agents such as starches, arabic gums, gelatin, methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose, or polyvinyl pyrrolidone; disintegrating agents such as starch, alginic acid, alginates or sodium starch glycolate;  
25 effervescing mixtures; dyestuffs, sweeteners; wetting agents such as lecithin, polysorbates, lauryl sulphates. Such preparations may be manufactured in known manners, for example by means of mixing, granulating, tableting, sugar coating, or film-coating processes.

30 Liquid dispersions for oral administration may be syrups, emulsions and suspensions. The syrups may contain as carrier, for example, saccharose or saccharose with glycerol and/or mannitol and/or sorbitol. In particular, a syrup for diabetic patients can contain as carriers only  
35 products, for example sorbitol, which do not metabolise to glucose or which only metabolise a very small amount to

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glucose. The suspensions and the emulsions may contain as carrier, for example, a natural gum, agar, sodium alginate, pectin, methylcellulose, carboxymethylcellulose or polyvinyl alcohol.

- 5        Suspensions or solutions for intramuscular injections may contain, together with the active compound, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier such as sterile water, olive oil, ethyl oleate, glycols such as propylene glycol, and, if desired, a suitable amount of lidocaine  
10 hydrochloride. Some of the present compounds are insoluble in water. A compound may be encapsulated within liposomes.

The following Examples illustrate the invention:

15                    EXAMPLE 1 : TESTING OF THE PRESENT  
                         COMPOUNDS AS PAI INHIBITORS

- Compounds of formula (A) were tested in a PAI chromogenic substrate assay. In the first assay  
20 (K.Nilsson, Fibrinolysis (1987) 1, 163-168) each compound was incubated with PAI-1 prior to addition to the tPA assay system. Inhibition of PAI-1 by the compound of formula (Aa) resulted in the production of plasmin from plasminogen. In turn, the plasmin cleaved the chromogenic  
25 substrate S2251 (Kabi-Vitrum) producing pNA (p-nitroaniline) which was detected spectrophotometrically at 405 nm.

- The degrees of inhibition observed in the chromogenic substrate assay at various concentrations of compounds of  
30 formula (A) are presented in Table 3.

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**TABLE 3: INHIBITION OF PAI-1 IN THE FIRST S2251  
CHROMOGENIC SUBSTRATE ASSAY**

5	Compound No.	Concentration in $\mu\text{m}$				
		100	50	25	12.5	6.25
	21	79	35	2	0	0
	22	61	2	1	0	0
	25	52	25	1	0	0
10	27	70	35	8	9	
	28	71	74	45	1	0
	29	80	76	34	1	0
	30	66	23	5	2	
	31	58	12	2	1	0
15	32	87	36	3	1	0
	33	56	3	1	1	0
	35	52	28	2		
	36	71	6	1		
	37	69	19	2		
20	38	64	3	1	1	1
	39	67	20	1	1	0
	40	61	61	23	4	1
	41	51	45	32	8	3
	43	59	45	3	1	1
25	44	51	2	1	1	1
	45	53	13	1	1	
	46	39	42	38	14	
	47	75	58	14	14	
	48	73	57	26	3	
30	49	60	47	8	1	
	50	62	37	22	2	
	51	79	61	38	5	

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	52	68	45	15	2	
	53	55	32	9	2	
	54	50	0	1	0	
	55	65	43	11	1	
5	56	82	60	15	2	
	57	82	72	38	2	
	58	60	31	1	1	
	59	71	76	60	19	
	60	62	52	25	1	
10	61	83	88	69	26	
	62	83	33	13	36	
	63	69	70	44	36	
	66	85	70	46	2	
	67	53	60	46	2	
15	68	63	89	67	37	
	69	68	40	14	3	
	70	94	78	21	4	
	73	50	3	1	2	
	75	59	52	33	6	2
20	76	66	75	50	5	2
	77	33	66	80	61	1
	78	30	57	36	4	2
	79	42	55	27	2	1
	80	53	9	1	0	
25	81	64	1	1	0	
	82	80	3	1	1	
	83	56	1	1	1	
	84	52	38	10	2	1
	85	35	49	43	27	13
30	86	23	37	48	41	31
	87	78	81	70	28	0
	88	41	49	60	40	0

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	89	63	55	66	40	7
	90	75	85	33	6	0
	91	50	72	3	0	0
	92	86	44	38	12	17
5	93	91	68	39	7	2
	94	31	62	83	76	43
	95	69	71	45	16	10
	96	77	75	47	29	5
	97	0	24	73	0	0
10	98	72	71	74	67	4
	Compound No.	Concentration in $\mu\text{m}$				
		60	30	15	7.5	3.75
	23	65	17	0	0	
	24	56	29	0	0	0
15	26	57	71	73	42	
	34	72	77	76	24	
	42	58	57	59	4	1
	64	100	87	63	17	
	71	52	64	51	1	1
20	72	76	75	18	1	2
	Compound No.	Concentration in $\mu\text{m}$				
		40	20	10	5	2.5
	99	68	48	17	0	0
	Compound No.	Concentration in $\mu\text{m}$				
		100	50	25	12	6
25	3	86	74	53	40	14

**EXAMPLE 2 : PHARMACEUTICAL COMPOSITION**

30        Tablets, each weighing 0.15 g and containing 25 mg of a compound of the invention can be manufactured as follows:  
Composition for 10,000 tablets  
 compound of the invention (250 g)

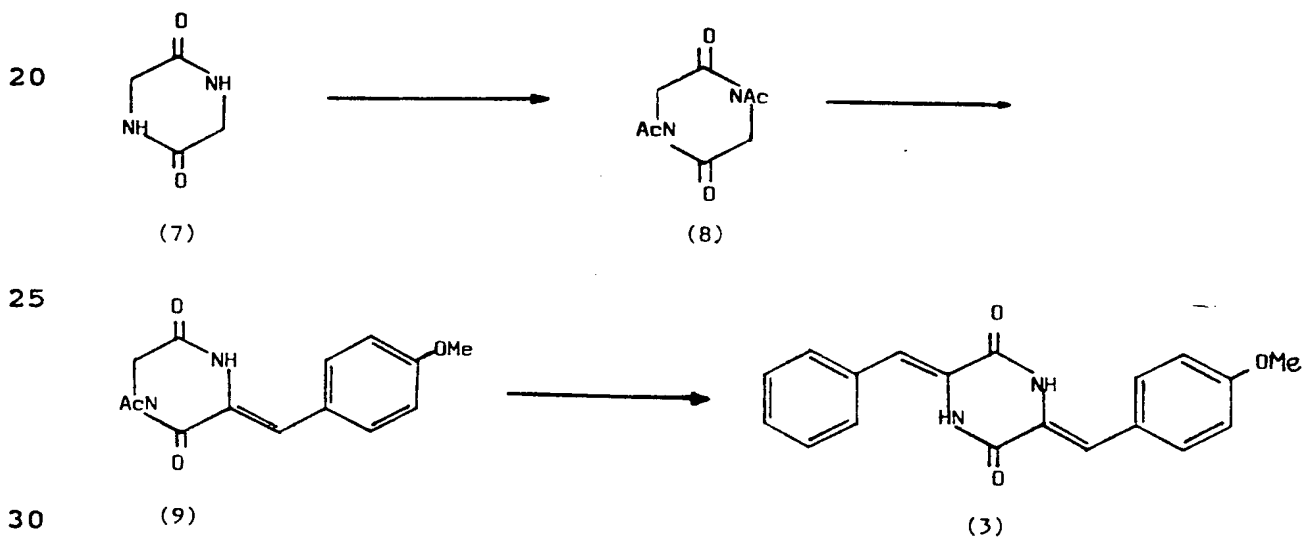


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lactose (800 g)  
corn starch (415 g)  
talc powder (30 g)  
magnesium stearate (5 g)

5       The compound of the invention, lactose and half of  
the corn starch are mixed. The mixture is then forced  
through a sieve 0.5 mm mesh size. Corn starch (10 g) is  
suspended in warm water (90 ml). The resulting paste is  
used to granulate the powder. The granulate is dried and  
10   broken up into small fragments on a sieve of 1.4 mm mesh  
size. The remaining quantity of starch, talc and magnesium  
stearate is added, carefully mixed and processed into  
tablets.

15 EXAMPLE 3: PREPARATION OF (3Z,6Z)-3-BENZYLIDENE-  
6-(4-METHOXYBENZYLIDENE)-2,5-PIPERAZINEDIONE (3) (SCHEME 1)



1,4-Diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione (8)

35 1,4-Diacetyl-2,5-piperazine-2,5-dione (8) was prepared by the published procedure (S.M. Marcuccio and

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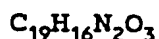
J.A. Elix, Aust. J. Chem., 1984, 37, 1791).

(3Z)-1-Acetyl-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(9)

- 5           (3Z)-1-Acetyl-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (9) was prepared by the published procedure (T. Yokoi, L-M. Yang, T. Yokoi, R-Y. Wu, and K-H. Lee, J. Antibiot., 1988, 41, 494).

10 (3Z,6Z)-3-Benzylidene-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (3)

- A mixture of (3Z)-1-acetyl-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (9) (1.0g, 3.6 mmol), benzaldehyde (430  $\mu$ l, 4.2 mmol) and triethylamine (1.14 ml), 8.2 mmol), in  
15 dry DMF (20 ml), was heated at 130°C for 18h. The reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into ethyl acetate (100 ml). A yellow solid precipitated which was filtered off and dried. Yield 360 mg (31%).



20  $^1\text{H}$  nmr (400 MHz  $\text{d}_6$ -DMSO):

$\delta$ : 3.80 (3H, s, o-Me); 6.77 (1H, s, CH=C);  
6.78 (1H, s, CH=C); 6.98 (2H, d, J=8Hz, 2xC-H on Ar-OMe); 7.30-7.56 (7H, m, Ph and 2xC-H on Ar-OMe);  
10.15 (2H, br.s, N-H).

25  $^{13}\text{C}$  nmr (100 MHz  $\text{d}_6$ -DMSO)

$\delta$ : 58.68; 117.66; 118.03; 118.77; 128.11; 128.92;  
129.95; 131.53; 132.11; 132.69; 134.44; 136.59;  
161.39; 161.62; 162.71.

ms (desorption chemical ionisation, ammonia):

30 m/z (% relative intensity) : 321 (100)  $\text{MH}^+$ .

ir : KBr (diffuse reflectance):

v max ( $\text{cm}^{-1}$ ) : 1620, 1700, 3100, 3220.

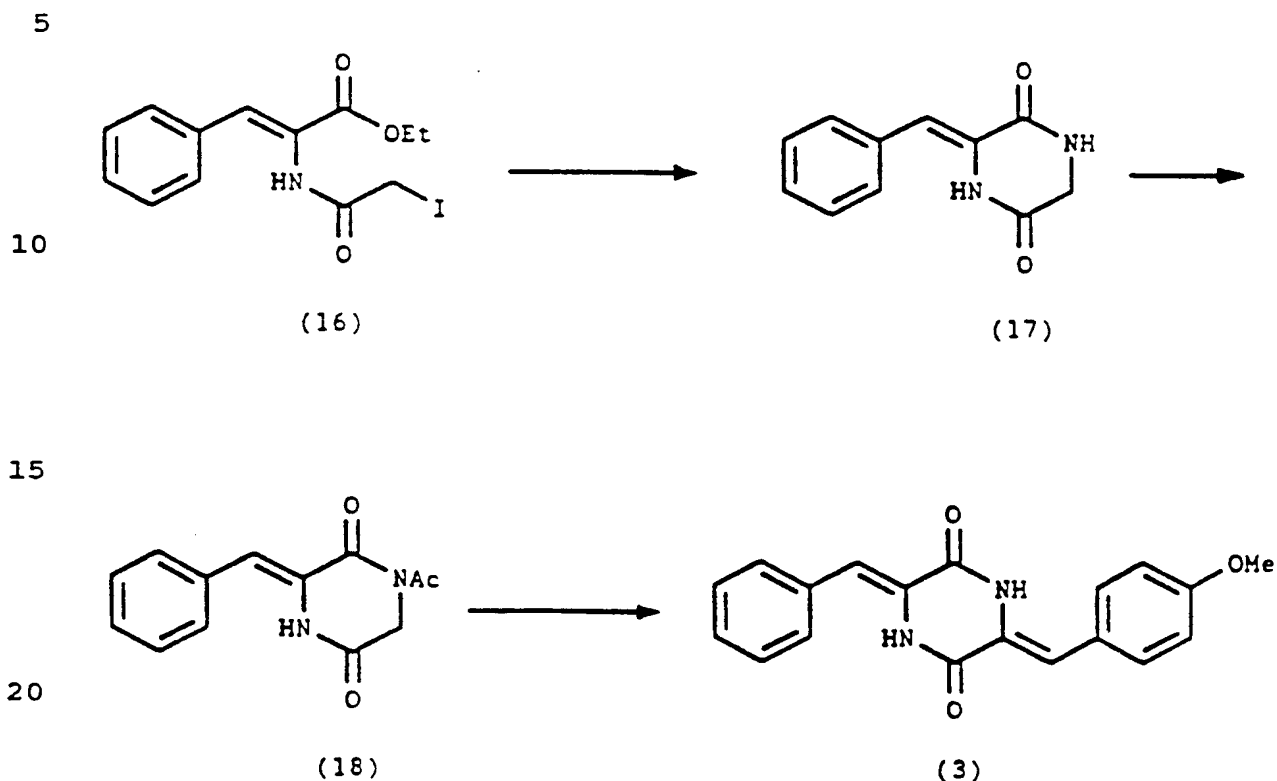
Elemental analysis:

Calculated for  $\text{C}_{19}\text{H}_{16}\text{N}_2\text{O}_3$ : C 71.24, H 5.03, N 8.74.

35 Found: C 70.92, H 5.02, N 8.80.  
C 70.89, H 5.06, N 8.79%

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**EXAMPLE 4: PREPARATION OF (3Z,6Z)-3-BENZYLIDENE  
-6-(4-METHOXYBENZYLIDENE)-1-METHYL-2,5-PIPERAZINEDIONE (1)**  
**(SCHEME 2)**



Compound 16 is treated with ammonia and subsequently  
25 with acetic anhydride to yield 1-acetyl-3-  
benzylidenepiperazine-2,5-dione (18).

Compound 18 is then condensed, in the presence of  
caesium carbonate or triethylamine in DMF, with 4-  
methoxybenzaldehyde to yield compound 3.

**Reference Example 1: Preparation of 1-acetyl-3-  
benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione**

5 1,4-Diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione (25.0g, 126 mmol),  
which is compound (8) mentioned in Example 3, was heated at  
120-130°C in DMF (200 ml) with triethylamine (17.6 ml, 126

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mmol) and benzaldehyde (13.0 ml, 126 mmol). After 4 h the mixture was cooled to room temperature and poured into EtOAc (1000 ml), and washed three times with brine. Any solid formed at this stage was filtered off. The filtrate  
 5 was dried ( $\text{MgSO}_4$ ) and the solvent removed in vacuo. The residue was recrystallised from EtOAc:Hexane to give 11.78 g (38%) of the title compound as a yellow solid.

$^1\text{H}$  NMR ( $\text{CDCl}_3$ , 400 MHz)  $\delta$ =2.69 (3H, s) 4.54 (2H, s) 7.20 (1H, s) 7.40 (3H, m), 7.48 (2H, m),  
 10 7.93 (1H, br.s)

MS(DCI,  $\text{NH}_3$ ): 262 ( $\text{MNH}_4^+$ , 20%), 245 ( $\text{MH}^+$ , 53%),  
 220 (52%), 204 (100%), 203 (100%)

15	Microanalysis	C	H	N
	Calc	63.93	4.95	11.47
	Found	64.11	5.02	11.41
		64.05	4.90	11.44

#### Example 5: Preparation of compound 96

20 1-Acetyl-3-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (one equivalent), prepared according to Reference Example 1, was treated with 5-(4-formylphenoxy)pentanoic acid, methyl ester in the presence of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (1-1.1 equivalents) in DMF at 80-100°C for 1-8 hours. The title compound was obtained  
 25 in 39% yield.

By the same method, but replacing 5-(4-formylphenoxy)pentanoic acid, methyl ester (which is benzaldehyde substituted at position 4 by  $-\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_4\text{CO}_2\text{Me}$ ) by the appropriately substituted benzaldehyde, the following  
 30 compounds were prepared:

35	Compound	Yield (%)	Compound	Yield (%)
	21	66	25	37
	34	56	43	54
	38	84	45	91
	44	44	51	68
	48	69	54	69

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5	52	72	59	50
	55	73	62	63
	61	44	75	49
	66	15	85	15
	76	60	89	37
	90	74	93	69
	94	39	95	26
	96	39	102	45

10 Characterising data for the compounds are set out in Example 16.

**Example 6: Preparation of Compound 31**

15 1-Acetyl-3-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (one equivalent), prepared according to Reference Example 1, was treated with 3-acetoxybenzaldehyde (one equivalent) in the presence of triethylamine (1-2 equivalents) in DMF at 130°C for 2-6 hours. The title compound was obtained in 61% yield.

20 By the same method, but replacing 3-acetoxybenzaldehyde by the appropriately substituted benzaldehyde, the following compounds were prepared:

25	Compound	Yield (%)
	23	16
	24	43
	32	41
	65	27
	74	77
30	105	50

Characterising data are provided in Example 16.

**Example 7: Preparation of compound 103**

35 1-Acetyl-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (1 equivalent), which is compound (9) mentioned in Example

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3, was treated with 2-fluorobenzaldehyde (1 equivalent) in the presence of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (1-1.1 equivalents) in DMF at 80-100°C for 1-6 hours. The title compound was obtained in 69% yield.

5 By the same method, but replacing the 2-fluorobenzaldehyde by the appropriately substituted benzaldehyde with the exception of compound 84 which was prepared by condensation with 4-acetoxy-2-chlorobenzaldehyde, the following compounds were prepared:

10

Compound	Yield (%)		Compound	Yield (%)
26	80		63	71
29	70		69	20
37	21		70	10
41	34		73	38
46	16		80	45
47	46		81	5
49	60		83	41
50	56		84	Low
53	77		87	33
57	49		91	74
60	71		100	20
			103	69

25 Characterising data are provided in Example 16.

**Example 8: Preparation of compound 28**

1-Acetyl-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (1 equivalent), compound (9) in Example 3, was treated with 2-nitrobenzaldehyde (1 equivalent) in triethylamine (1-2 equivalents) and DMF at 130°C for 2-6 hours. The title compound was obtained in 45% yield. Characterising data are set out in Example 16.

30

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**Reference Example 2: Preparation of 1-acetyl-3-(4-acetamidobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione**

1,4-Diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione (10.0g, 50 mmol),  
 5 prepared by the published procedure mentioned in Example 3,  
 was stirred in DMF (40 ml) with 4-acetamidobenzaldehyde  
 (8.24 g, 50 mmol) and triethylamine (7 ml, 50 mmol) and  
 heated to 120°C. After 2½ h the mixture was cooled to room  
 temperature, diluted with EtOAc (100 ml) and stirred  
 10 overnight. The solid formed was collected, washed with  
 EtOAc and dried to give 8.46 g (56%) of a yellow solid.

<sup>1</sup>H NMR (CDCl<sub>3</sub>+TFA, 400 MHz) δ=2.32 (3H, s) 2.72 (3H, s)  
 4.68 (2H, s) 7.36 (1H, s) 7.45 (2H, d, J=8Hz) 7.60 (2H, d,  
 15 J=8Hz)

Microanalysis	C	H	N
Calc	59.80	5.02	13.95
Found	60.08	5.09	13.89
20	60.11	5.07	13.86

**Example 9: Preparation of Compound 77**

1-Acetyl-3-(4-acetamidobenzylidene)-2,5-  
 piperazinedione (1 equivalent), prepared according to  
 25 Reference Example 2, was treated with 2,4-  
 difluorobenzaldehyde (1 equivalent) in the presence of  
 Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1-1.1 equivalents) in DMF at 80-100°C for 1-6  
 hours. The title compound was obtained in 60% yield.

By the same method, but replacing 2,4-  
 30 difluorobenzaldehyde by the appropriately substituted  
 benzaldehyde, the following compounds were obtained:

Compound	Yield (%)	Compound	Yield (%)
42	50	40	40
68	26	58	22
72	41	71	36

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79	11	78	16
92	68	82	16

Characterising data are set out in Example 16.

5

**Example 10: Preparation of compound 22**

1,4-Diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione (1 equivalent), prepared by the published procedure mentioned in Example 3, was treated with benzaldehyde (2.1 equivalents) in the presence of triethylamine (2.5 equivalents) in DMF at 130°C for 8 hours. The title compound was obtained in 89% yield. Characterising data are set out in Example 16.

10

**Example 11: Preparation of compound 35**

1,4-Diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione (1 equivalent), prepared by the published procedure mentioned in Example 3, was treated with 3-nitrobenzaldehyde (1 equivalent) in the presence of triethylamine (1 equivalent) in DMF at room temperature for 18-20 hrs. The title compound was obtained in 9% yield together with 1-acetyl-3-(3-nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (66% yield). Characterising data are set out in Example 16.

15

20

**Reference Example 3: Preparation of 1-acetyl-3-(4-N,N-dimethylaminobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione**

25

1,4-Diacetyl-2,5-piperazinedione, (1 equivalent), prepared as described in Example 3, was treated with 4-N,N-dimethylaminobenzaldehyde (1 equivalent) in the presence of Et<sub>3</sub>N in DMF at 130°C for 24 hrs. The title compound was obtained in 18% yield

30

**Example 12: Preparation of Compound 86**

1-Acetyl-3-(4-dimethylaminobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (1 equivalent) as described in Reference Example 3 was treated with 4-acetamidobenzaldehyde (1 equivalent) in the presence of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> (1 equivalent) in DMF

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at 80°C for 2-6 hours. The title compound was obtained in 56% yield. Characterising data are set out in Example 16.

5 **Example 13:** **Interconversions of compounds of formula**

**A**

- (i) Compound 31, prepared as described in Example 6, was treated with aqueous lithium hydroxide in a mixture of MeOH and THF at room temperature for 2-3 hrs to give compound 33 in 91% yield.
- (ii) Compound 61, prepared as described in Example 5, was treated with aqueous lithium hydroxide in a mixture of MeOH and THF at room temperature for 3 hours to give compound 64 in 57% yield.
- (iii) Compound 96, prepared as described in Example 5, was treated with aqueous sodium hydroxide in THF at room temperature for 4 hours to give compound 97 in 54% yield.
- (iv) Compound 37, prepared as described in Example 7, was treated with aqueous sodium hydroxide in THF at room temperature for 8 hrs to give compound 36 in 30% yield.
- (v) Compound 56, prepared as described in Example 7, was treated with trifluoroacetic acid in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> at room temperature for 12 hrs to give compound 67 in 96% yield.
- (vi) Compound 87, prepared as described in Example 7, was treated with aqueous sodium hydroxide in THF at room temperature for 4 hours to give compound 88 in 69% yield.
- (vii) Compound 65, prepared as described in Example 6 was hydrogenated over 10% palladium on carbon as catalyst in CH<sub>2</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub> in the presence of a few drops of trifluoroacetic acid to give compound 39 in 38% yield. Under the same conditions of hydrogenation compound 74 was converted into compound 30 in 95% yield.
- (viii) Compound 93, prepared as described in Example 5, was hydrolysed by treatment with aqueous sodium hydroxide in a mixture of MeOH and THF at room temperature for 18 hours to give compound 101 in 72% yield.
- (ix) Compound 58, prepared as described in Example 9, was

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hydrolysed by treatment with aqueous sodium hydroxide in THF at room temperature for 3 hours to give compound 104 in 90% yield.

Characterising data for all compounds prepared in this Example are provided in Example 16.

**Example 14: Preparation of Compound 27**

1-Acetyl-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione (1 equivalent), compound (9) in Example 3, was treated with 2-naphthaldehyde (1 equivalent) in the presence of  $\text{Cs}_2\text{CO}_3$  (1.0-1.1 equivalents) in DMF at 80-100°C for 1-6 hours. The title compound was obtained in 84% yield.

Characterising data are provided in Example 16.

**Example 15: Preparation of Salts**

Compound 98, the hydrochloride salt of compound 102, was prepared by treatment of a solution of compound 102 in THF with 2 molar hydrochloric acid followed by sonication until a clear solution was obtained. The solvent was then removed in vacuo and the residual solution was freeze-dried to give compound 98.

Compound 99 was prepared by bubbling HCl gas through a solution of the corresponding free base in THF, followed by evaporation to dryness.

Characterising data are provided in Example 16.

**Example 16: Characterization of compounds of formula A**

The compounds prepared in the preceding Examples, were characterised by mass spectroscopic, microanalytical, proton nuclear magnetic resonance and, in some cases, infra-red techniques. The results are set out in Table 2:

TABLE 2

N°	Mol. Formula (M. Wt)	Mass spec	<sup>1</sup> H nmr	Microanalysis		Infra-red
				Calc	Found	
		m/z, mass, intensity (mode)	Solvent δ all 400 MHz			cm <sup>-1</sup>
21	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>12</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> Cl <sub>2</sub>	359, MH <sup>+</sup> , 100%; 376, MNH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , 15%; 363, 10%; 362, 10%; 361, 60%; 323, 40% (DCI, NH <sub>3</sub> )	d <sub>6</sub> -DMSO 7.6-7.30 (m, 8H), 6.81 (s, 1H), 6.60 (s, 1H)	C 60.19 H 3.37 N 7.80 Cl 19.74	59.33 59.37 3.44 3.68 7.55 7.48 19.22 19.40	3200, 3050, 1680, 1620, 1400, 1370
22	C <sub>18</sub> H <sub>14</sub> O <sub>2</sub> N <sub>2</sub> (290) mixture of isomers	291, MH <sup>+</sup> (DCI, NH <sub>3</sub> )	d <sub>6</sub> -DMSO 6.54 (1H, s), 6.71 (1H, s), 6.80 (2H, s), 7.20-7.60 (20H, m), 10.17 (2H, broad singlet), 10.80 (0.5H, broad singlet)	C 74.47 H 4.86 N 9.65	74.39 74.20 4.78 4.75 9.68 9.60	
23	C <sub>20</sub> H <sub>16</sub> N <sub>2</sub> O <sub>4</sub>	348 (M <sup>+</sup> , 23%); 306, 100% (EI)	CDCl <sub>3</sub> + CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 2.40 (3H, s), 7.25 (2H, d, J=7Hz), 7.29 (1H, s), 7.40-7.51 (8H, m)	C 68.96 H 4.63 N 8.04	69.05 69.08 4.56 4.57 8.15 8.15	1620, 1690, 1760, 3200

24	$C_{18}H_{13}N_3O_4$ (335)	336, $MH^+$ , 100%; 353, $MNH_4^+$ , 10%; 306, 20%; 291, 70% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 8.30-8.26 (m, 2H), 7.76-7.67 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.43 (m, 5H), 7.32 (s, 1H), 7.26 (s, 1H)	C H N	64.48 3.91 12.53	65.06 3.93 12.19	65.03 3.98 12.20	
25	$C_{20}H_{18}N_2O_3$ (334)	335, $MH^+$ , 100%; 305, 10%; 291, 20%; 277, 10%; 161, 20% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.49-7.39 (m, 7H), 7.20 (d, 2H), 7.00 (d, 2H), 4.11 (q, 2H), 1.45 (t, 3H)	C H N	71.84 5.43 8.38	71.83 5.35 8.38	71.95 5.36 8.41	
26	$C_{21}H_{19}N_3O_4$ (377)	279, 10%; 378 $MH^+$ ; 395, $MNH_4^+$ , 50% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.60 (1.62H, d), 7.55 (0.38 H, d), 7.50 (3.55 H, m), 7.45 (0.45H, d), 7.28 (1H, s), 7.22 (1H, s), 7.05 (2H, d), 3.90 (3H, s), 2.38 (2.5H, s), 2.25 (0.5H, s)	C H N	66.83 5.07 11.13	66.77 5.04 11.07	66.94 4.96 11.10	
27	$C_{23}H_{18}N_2O_2$ (370)	371, $MH^+$ ; 388, $MNH_4^+$ , 2% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 8.02 (1H, s), 7.95 (2H, m), 7.90 (1H, m), 7.58 (2H, m), 7.50 (1H, dd), 7.48 (2H, d), 7.40 (1H, s), 7.25 (1H, s), 7.05 (2H, d), 3.90 (3H, s)	C H N	74.58 4.90 7.56	74.48 4.86 7.55	74.39 4.93 7.58	

28	$C_{19}H_{15}N_3O_5$ (365)	366, $MH^+$ ; 383, $MNH_4^+$ , 80% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 8.30 (1H, d), 7.77 (1H, m), 7.67 (1H, m), 7.48 (4H, m), 7.25 (1H, s), 7.02 (2H, d), 3.90 (3H, s)	C H N	62.46 4.13 11.50	62.55 4.17 11.60	62.45 4.16 11.50	
29	$C_{19}H_{14}N_2O_3Cl_2$	355, 15%; 389, $MH^+$ ; 406, $MNH_4^+$ , 2% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.40 (4H, m), 7.35 (1H, pt), 7.25 (1H, s), 7.10 (1H, s), 7.02 (2H, d), 3.90 (3H, s)	C H N	58.63 3.63 7.20	58.40 3.64 7.13	58.41 3.66 7.12	
30	$C_{18}H_{15}N_3O_2$ (305)	306, $MH^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.59 (d, 2H), 7.53 (d, 2H), 7.51-7.42 (m, 5H), 7.31 (s, 1H), 7.22 (s, 1H)					
31	$C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_4$ (348)	349, $MH^+$ , 100%; 366, $MNH_4^+$ , 10% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.39 (3H, s), 7.14-7.54 (11H, m)	C H N	68.96 4.63 8.04	69.14 4.63 8.07	69.16 4.63 8.00	
32	$C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_4$ (348)	366, $MNH_4^+$ , 38%; 349, $MH^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3$ 2.40 (3H, s), 6.90 (1H, s), 7.04 (1H, s), 7.20 (1H, d), 7.30-7.50 (8H, m), 8.12 (1H, bs), 8.19 (1H, bs)	C H N	68.96 4.63 8.04	68.88 4.56 8.30	69.07 4.55 8.30	

33	$C_{18}H_{14}N_2O_3$ (306)	324, $MNH_4^+$ , 5%; 307, $MH^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 6.97-7.50 (11H, m)					
34	$C_{20}H_{17}N_3O_3$ (347)	348, $MH^+$ , 100%; 305, 70%; 227, 30%; 145, 80% (DCI $^+$ ) (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.61 (d, 2H), 7.55-7.43 (m, 7H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 7.24 (s, 1H), 2.37+2.25 (singlets, 3H, (2.37-77%, 2.25- 23%))	C H N	69.15 4.93 12.10	68.87 4.73 11.93	68.96 4.86 11.91	
35	$C_{18}H_{12}O_6N_4$ (380)	380, $MH^+$ , 30%; 398, $MNH_4^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3, CF_3CO_2D$ 8.37-8.34 (m, 4H), 7.83-7.70 (m, 4H), 7.40 (s, 2H)	C H N	56.85 3.18 14.73	56.84 3.04 14.69	56.74 3.05 14.67	
36	$C_{19}H_{16}N_2O_4$ (336)	337, $MH^+$ ; 351, $MNH_4^+$ , 5% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.40 (4H, m), 7.22 (2H, d), 7.00 (2H, d), 6.98 (2H, d), 3.90 (3H, s)					
37	$C_{21}H_{18}N_2O_5$ (378)	379, $MH^+$ ; 396, $MNH_4^+$ , 40% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.48 (2H, d), 7.44 (2H, d), 7.20 (4H, m), 7.02 (2H, d), 3.90 (3H, s), 2.40 (3H, s)	C H N	66.66 4.79 7.40	66.38 4.71 7.35	66.63 4.71 7.41	

38	$C_{20}H_{17}N_3O_3$ (347)	348, $MH^+$ , 100%; 365, $MNH_4^+$ , 10%; 331, 10%; 306, 10% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.70-7.68 (m, 1H), 7.52-7.38 (m, 8H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.14 (s, 1H), 2.30+2.08 (singlets, 3H)	C H N	69.15 4.93 12.10	68.21 4.86 11.79	68.47 4.89 11.85	
39	$C_{18}H_{15}N_3O_2$ (305)	306, $MH^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.62-7.48 (m, 9H), 7.28 (s, 1H), 7.17 (s, 1H)					
40	$C_{20}H_{15}N_3O_3Cl_2$ (415)	433/435, $MNH_4^+$ , 100%; 416/418, $MH^+$ , 55%; 380, 13% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.36 (3H, s), 7.14 (1H, s), 7.26 (1H, s), 7.34 (1H, m), 7.42 (2H, d), 7.49 (2H, d), 7.60 (2H, d)	C H N	57.71 3.63 10.09	57.51 3.81 10.34	57.55 3.88 10.13	
41	$C_{22}H_{21}N_3O_4$ (391)	409, $MNH_4^+$ , 29%; 392, $MH^+$ , 100%; 350, 32% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.02 (3H, s), 3.34 (3H, s), 3.89 (3H, s), 7.01 (2H, d), 7.21 (1H, s), 7.22 (1H, s), 7.33 (2H, d), 7.43 (2H, d), 7.52 (2H, d)	C H N	67.50 5.41 10.74	66.75 5.34 10.57	66.63 5.36 10.52	

42	$C_{20}H_{16}N_3O_3Cl$ (381)	399, $MNH_4^+$ , 32%; 70%; 401, 32%; 382, $MH^+$ , 100%; 384, 55% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.35 (3H, s), 7.21 (2H, d), 7.49 (2H, d), 7.50 (4H, m), 7.61 (2H, d)						
43	$C_{21}H_{18}N_2O_4$ (362)	380, $MNH_4^+$ , 70%; 363, $MH^+$ , 100%; 303, 44%; 291, 13%; 279, 11% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.19 (3H, s), 5.2 (2H, s), 7.25 (2H, d), 7.40-7.52 (9H, m)	C H N	69.60 5.01 7.73	69.72 4.95 7.79	69.86 4.94 7.79		
44	$C_{21}H_{19}N_3O_3$ (361)	379, $MNH_4^+$ , 10%; 362, $MH^+$ , 100%; 319, 10%; 291, 11% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.19 (3H, s), 4.51 (2H, s), 7.21 (2H, s), 7.32-7.52 (9H, m)	C H N	69.79 5.30 11.63	69.32 5.38 11.29	69.19 5.26 11.13		
45	$C_{18}H_{14}N_2O_2$ (290)		$d_6$ -DMSO 6.78 (2H, s), 7.35 (2H, t), 7.40 (4H, t), 7.56 (4H, d)	C H N	74.47 4.86 9.65	73.95 4.80 9.57	73.92 4.81 9.56		
46	$C_{20}H_{18}N_2O_5S$ (398)	351, 30%; 399, $MH^+$ ; 416, $MNH_4^+$ , (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3$ 8.07 (2H, d), 7.65 (2H, d), 7.47 (2H, d), 7.25 (2H), 7.05 (2H, d), 3.90 (3H, s), 3.18 (3H, s)	C H N	60.29 4.55 7.03	59.89 4.54 6.90	59.99 4.56 6.96		



47	$C_{23}H_{24}N_2O_4$ (392)	MH <sup>+</sup> 393 (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> +CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 7.40 (4H, m), 7.20 (2H, s), 7.00 (4H, m), 4.08 (2H, t), 3.88 (3H, s), 1.82 (2H, m), 1.53 (2H, m), 1.00 (3H, t)	C H N	70.39 6.16 7.14	70.06 6.06 7.20	70.13 6.10 7.13	
48	$C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_3$ (362)	MH <sup>+</sup> 363 (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> +CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 7.48 (7H, m), 7.25 (2H, d), 7.00 (2H, d), 4.05 (2H, t), 1.82 (2H, m), 1.48 (2H, m), 0.98 (3H, t)	C H N	72.91 6.12 7.73	72.14 5.79 7.71	72.09 5.99 7.69	
49	$C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_4$ (378)	MH <sup>+</sup> 379 (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> +CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 7.38 (4H, m), 7.18 (2H, s), 6.98 (4H, pt), 4.62 (1H, m), 3.88 (3H, s), 1.38 (6H, d)	C H N	69.83 5.86 7.40	69.85 5.76 7.41	69.90 5.80 7.42	
50	$C_{23}H_{24}N_2O_3$ (376)	MH <sup>+</sup> 377 (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> +CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 7.55 (2H, d), 7.45 (2H, d), 7.40 (2H, d), 7.25 (2H), 7.05 (2H, d), 3.90 (3H, s), 1.35 (9H, s)	C H N	73.38 6.43 7.44	73.21 6.45 7.44	73.29 6.45 7.44	

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51	$C_{22}H_{22}N_2O_2$	331, $MH^+$ , 10%; 347, $MNH_4^+$ , 364 (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.48 (7H, m), 7.39 (2H, d), 7.25 (2H), 1.35 (9H, s)	C H N	76.28 6.40 8.09	75.57 6.28 8.04	75.53 6.34 8.04	
52	$C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_3$	291, 10%; 349, $MH^+$ (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.45 (7H, m), 7.25 (1H, s), 7.23 (1H, s), 7.02 (2H, d), 4.55 (1H, m), 1.40 (6H, d)	C H N	72.40 5.79 8.04	72.30 5.76 8.15	72.42 5.65 8.12	
53	$C_{19}H_{15}N_2O_3Br$ (399 $\pm$ 1)	399:401 (100:100)%; 321 62% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 3.88 (3H, s), 7.01 (2H, d), 7.19 (1H, s), 7.22 (1H, s), 7.28-7.31 (1H, m), 7.36-7.43 (4H, m), 7.70 (1H, d)	C H N Br	57.16 3.79 7.02 20.01	57.08 3.77 6.94 20.03	56.95 3.78 6.96	
54	$C_{18}H_{12}N_2O_2F_2$ (326)	327, 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 6.90-7.03 (2H, m), 7.15 (1H, s), 7.31 (1H, s), 7.38-7.52 (6H, m)	C H N	66.26 3.71 8.59	66.44 3.74 8.65	66.50 3.72 8.66	
55	$C_{18}H_{13}N_2O_2Br$ (369 $\pm$ 1)	369:371, (100:100)%; 386:388, (19:19)%; 291, 63% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.29-7.33 (2H, m), 7.39-7.53 (8H, m), 7.71 (1H, d)	C H N Br	58.56 3.55 7.59 21.64	58.57 3.45 7.62 21.33	58.28 3.46 7.47 21.35	

56	$C_{23}H_{27}N_3O_5$ (449)	467, $MNH_4^+$ , 3%; 450, $MH^+$ , 7%; 449, $M^+$ , 12%; 394, 100%; 351, 14%; 333, 16% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 1.48 (9H, s), 3.90 (3H, s), 4.34 (2H, s), 7.03 (2H, d), 7.21 (1H, s), 7.33-7.47 (6H, m), 7.51 (1H, s)	C H N	66.80 6.05 9.35	66.45 5.97 9.28	66.50 5.94 9.29	
57	$C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_3S$ (380)	398, $MNH_4^+$ , 4%; 381, $MH^+$ , 100%; 333, 24% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.02 (3H, s), 3.71 (2H, s), 3.39 (3H, s), 7.02 (2H, d), 7.21 (2H, s), 7.38-7.49 (6H, m)	C H N S	66.30 5.30 7.36 8.43	65.87 5.16 7.32 7.45	65.82 5.14 7.30 7.62	
58	$C_{23}H_{21}N_3O_5$ (419)	437, $MNH_4^+$ , 18%; 420, $MH^+$ , 90%; 405, 30%; 360, 100%; 317, 8% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.21 (3H, s), 2.34 (3H, s), 5.21 (2H, s), 7.25 (2H, d), 7.41-7.50 (6H, m), 7.59 (2H, d)					
59	$C_{20}H_{18}N_2O_{25}$ (350)	368, $MNH_4^+$ , 8%; 351, $MH^+$ , 100%; 303, 31%; 291, 8% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.03 (3H, s), 3.72 (2H, s), 7.28 (1H, s), 7.38-7.51 (10H, m)	C H N	68.55 5.18 7.99	67.94 5.00 8.01	67.89 4.99 8.00	

60	$C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_5S$ (412)	430, $MNH_4^+$ , 28%; 413, $MH^+$ , 100%; 333, 35% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.96 (3H, s), 3.91 (3H, s), 4.45 (2H, s), 7.08 (2H, d), 7.24 (2H, d), 7.42 (2H, d), 7.51 (4H, m)	C H N S	61.15 4.89 6.79 7.77	60.86 4.83 6.83 7.37	60.83 4.83 6.83 7.47	
61	$C_{21}H_{18}N_2O_5S$ (378)	379, $MH^+$ , 100%; 337, 8%; 305, 8% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.39 (3H, s), 4.15 (2H, s), 7.15-7.50 (11H, m)	C H N	66.65 4.79 7.40	66.28 4.71 7.58	66.20 4.74 7.61	
62	$C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_4$ (348)	366, $M^+NH_4$ , 40%; 349, $M^+H$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 4.00 (3H, s), 7.25-7.69 (9H, m), 8.09-8.14 (2H, m),					
63	$C_{22}H_{20}N_2O_5S$ (408)	409, $M^+H$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.40 (3H, s), 3.87 (3H, s), 4.18 (2H, s), 7.00 (2H, d), 7.16-7.43 (8H, m)					
64	$C_{19}H_{16}N_2O_5S$ (336)	354, $M^+NH_4$ , 12%; 337, $M^+H$ , 100%; 305, 30% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 3.65 (2H, s), 7.20-7.55 (11H, m)					

65	$C_{18}H_{13}N_3O_4$ (335)	336, $MH^+$ , 100%; 353, $MNH_4^+$ , 20%; 306, 30%; 291, 30% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3$ , $CF_3CO_2D$ 8.31 (1H, d), 7.78 (1H, m), 7.65 (1H, m), 7.55-7.52 (7H, m), 7.31 (1H, s)	C H N	67.45 4.47 8.28	67.44 4.37 8.27	67.44 4.32 8.29	
66	$C_{24}H_{25}N_3O_4$ (419)	437, $MNH_4^+$ , 5%; 420, $MH^+$ , 6%; 381, 17%; 364, 100%; 318, 13%; 303, 9%; 291, 32% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$d_6$ -DMSO 1.40 (9H, s), 4.12 (2H, d), 6.77 (2H, d), 7.22-7.56 (9H, m)	C H N	68.72 6.01 10.02	68.83 5.89 9.81	68.80 5.85 9.83	
67	$C_{20}H_{19}N_3O_3$ (349)	350, $MH^+$ , 12%; 349, $M^+$ , 13%; 333, 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3$ + $CF_3CO_2D$ 3.92 (3H, s), 4.32 (2H, s), 7.05 (2H, d), 7.24 (2H), 7.45 (2H, d), 7.52 (4H, s)					
68	$C_{26}H_{28}N_4O_5$ (476)	494, $MNH_4^+$ , 10%; 477, $MH^+$ , 18%; 476, $M^+$ , 17%; 438, 22%; 421, 100%; 405, 9%; 375, 6%; 360, 28% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$d_6$ -DMSO 2.09 (3H, s), 2.10 (9H, s), 4.12 (2H, d), 6.71 (2H, d), 7.26 (2H), 7.49 (4H, m), 7.61 (2H, d)					

69	$C_{19}H_{14}N_2O_3F_2$ (356)	357, 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 3.88 (3H, s), 6.90-7.20 (4H, m), 7.11 (1H, s), 7.22 (1H, s), 7.37-7.44 (3H, m)	C H N	64.04 3.96 7.86	63.47 3.86 7.79	63.36 3.82 7.77	
70	$C_{20}H_{15}N_2O_3F_3$ (388)	389, 100; 406, 19% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 3.90 (3H, s), 7.04 (2H, d), 7.23 (1H, s), 7.37-7.47 (4H, m), 7.55 (1H, t), 7.62 (1H, t), 7.80 (1H, d)					
71	$C_{20}H_{16}N_3O_3F$		$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.36 (3H, s), 7.18-7.30 (4H, m), 7.40-7.50 (4H, m), 7.58 (2H, d)					
72	$C_{20}H_{16}N_3O_3F$ (365)	383, 21%; 366, 100%; 323, 12% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.36 (3H, s), 7.17-7.28 (4H, m), 7.41-7.49 (4H, m), 7.60 (2H, d)					

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73	$C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_5$		$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 3.90 (6H, s), 3.99 (3H, s), 6.60 (1H, s), 7.01 (2H, d, J=6Hz), 7.19 (2H, m), 7.30 (1H, s), 7.32 (1H, s), 7.40 (2H, d, J=6Hz)	C H N	66.31 5.30 7.36	66.12 5.25 7.35	66.13 5.22 7.33	
74	$C_{18}H_{13}N_3O_4$ (335)	336, $MH^+$ , 100%; 353, $MNH_4^+$ , 20%; 306, 30%; 291, 30% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 8.35 (d, 2H), 7.62 (d, 2H), 7.55-7.42 (m, 5H), 7.36 (s, 1H), 7.28 (s, 1H)	C H N	64.48 3.91 12.53	64.55 3.90 12.41	64.57 3.89 12.41	3250, 1690, 1620, 1570, 1420, 1370
75	$C_{23}H_{25}N_3O_3$	392, $MH^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.30 (2H, m), 3.01 (6H, s), 3.43 (2H, m), 4.15 (2H, m), 6.96 (2H, d, J=8Hz), 7.23 (1H, s), 7.40-7.55 (8H, m)	C H N	70.57 6.44 10.73	70.28 6.33 10.59	70.46 6.36 10.68	
76	$C_{21}H_{16}N_2O_3S$	396, $MNH_4^+$ , 4%; 379, $MH^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 7.53-7.34 (10H, m), 7.21 (1H, s), 4.18 (2H, s), 2.42 (3H, s)	C H N	66.65 4.79 7.40	66.79 4.69 7.41	66.82 4.71 7.41	

77	$C_{20}H_{15}N_3O_3S_2$ (383)	401, 100%; 384, 75% (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> + CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 2.37 (3H, s), 6.90-7.05 (2H, m), 7.18 (1H, s), 7.27 (1H, s), 7.39-7.50 (3H, m), 7.60 (2H, d)	C H N	62.66 3.94 10.96	62.65 4.11 11.32	62.63 4.11 11.33	
78	$C_{21}H_{16}N_3O_3F_3$ (415)	416, 100%; 433, 100% (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> + CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 2.37 (3H, s), 7.22 (1H, s), 7.42-7.49 (4H, m), 7.56-7.70 (4H, m), 7.32 (1H, d)	C H N	60.72 3.88 10.12	60.08 4.14 10.84	60.11 4.15 10.87	
79	$C_{20}H_{16}N_3O_3Br$ (426±1)	426:428, (41:41)%; 443:445, (100:100)% (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> + CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 2.36 (3H, s), 7.22 (1H, s), 7.29-7.35 (2H, m), 7.38-7.49 (4H, m), 7.60 (2H, d), 7.72 (1H, d)	C H N	56.35 3.78 9.86	56.65 3.92 9.97	56.79 3.84 10.01	
80	$C_{20}H_{17}N_3O_4$ (363)	351, 10%, MH <sup>+</sup> , 364 (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	d <sub>6</sub> -DMSO 7.98 (1H, bs), 7.90 (2H, d), 7.60 (2H, d), 7.55 (2H, d), 7.40 (1H, bs), 7.00 (2H, d), 6.78 (2H, m), 3.79 (3H, s)	C H N	66.11 4.72 11.56	65.57 4.71 11.32	65.49 4.71 11.31	

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81	$C_{24}H_{24}N_2O_5$ (420)	336, 20%; 351, 15%; 379, 25%; 421, MH <sup>+</sup> , 100%, MNH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , 438, 10% (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> +CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 7.48 (2H, d), 7.45 (2H, d), 7.20 (4H, m), 7.02 (2H, d), 3.90 (3H, s), 1.38 (9H, s)						
82	$C_{25}H_{25}N_3O_5$ (447)	363, 25%; 406, 15%; 448, MH <sup>+</sup> , 100% (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> +CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 7.62 (2H, d), 7.48 (4H, m), 7.25 (2H, d), 7.20 (2H, d), 2.35 (3H, s), 1.40 (9H, s)						
83	$C_{21}H_{19}N_3O_5$	411, MNH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+</sup> , 10%; 394, MH <sup>+</sup> , 100%; 362, 57% (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	d <sub>6</sub> -DMSO 3.68 (3H, s), 3.80 (3H, s), 6.57 (1H, s), 6.60 (1H, s), 6.95 (2H, d, J=7Hz), 7.47 (2H, d, J=7Hz), 7.67 (4H, m), 9.68 (1H, br.s), 9.78 (2H, br.s)						

84	$C_{19}H_{15}N_2O_4Cl$ (370/372)	371, $MH^+$ , 100%; 373, 30%; 388, $MNH_4^+$ , 45% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$d_6$ -DMSO 10.08 (s, 2H), 7.52 (d, 2H), 7.45 (d, 1H), 6.98 (d, 2H), 6.90 (d, 1H), 6.80 (dd, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 6.74 (s, 1H), 3.79 (s, 3H)						
85	$C_{18}H_{13}N_2O_3Cl$ (340/342)	341, $MH^+$ , 100%; 343, 30%; 358, $MNH_4^+$ , 5%; 305, 50% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$d_6$ -DMSO 8.98 (s, 1H), 8.91 (s, 1H), 8.88 (s, 1H), 7.58 (d, 2H), 7.50 (d, 1H), 7.45 (m, 2H), 7.37 (m, 1H), 6.94 (d, 1H), 6.83 (dd, 1H), 6.80 (s, 1H), 6.79 (s, 1H)						
86	$C_{22}H_{22}N_4O_3$ (390)	391, $MH^+$ , 100%; 408, $MNH_4^+$ , 5% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3$ + $CF_3CO_2D$ 7.66-7.58 (m, 6H), 7.46 (2H), 7.24 (2H), 3.35 (s, 6H), 2.35 (s, 3H)	C H N	67.68 5.68 14.35	66.97 5.64 14.35	66.70 5.50 14.15		

87	$C_{23}H_{21}N_3O_6$	453, $MNH_4^+$ , 30%; 436, $MH^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.32 (3H, s), 3.92 (3H, s), 4.89 (2H, s), 7.03 (2H, d, J=6Hz), 7.24 (1H, s), 7.28 (1H, s), 7.46 (2H, d, J=6Hz), 7.50 (2H, d, J=7Hz), 7.64 (2H, d, J=7Hz)					
88	$C_{21}H_{19}N_3O_5$	411, $MNH_4^+$ , 51%; 394, $MH^+$ , 100%; 336, 52% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 3.92 (3H, s), 4.57 (2H, br.s), 7.08 (2H, d, J=7Hz), 7.25 (1H, s), 7.28 (1H, s), 7.49 (2H, d, J=7Hz), 7.50 (2H, d, J=7Hz), 7.70 (2H, d, J=7Hz)					

89	$C_{24}H_{21}N_3O_2$ (383)	384, $MH^+$ , 100%; 356, 5%; 296, 5%  ( $DCI/NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 8.26 (d, 1H), 8.07 (d, 1H), 7.86 (m, 1H), 7.78 (d, 1H), 7.74 (d, 1H), 7.68 (m, 2H), 7.55-7.45 (m, 5H), 7.29 (s, 1H), 3.55 (s, 6H)	C H N	75.18 5.52 10.96	74.92 5.50 10.99	74.81 5.52 11.02	
90	$C_{20}H_{18}N_2O_4$ (350)	351, $M^{+1}$ , 100%  (EI)	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 3.90 (3H, s, OMe), 3.95 (3H, s, OMe), 6.90-7.50 (10H, m)					
91	$C_{21}H_{20}N_2O_5$ (380)	381, 100%  (EI)	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 3.85 (3H, s, OMe), 3.90 (3H, s, OMe), 3.95 (3H, s, OMe), 6.90-7.45 (9H, m)	C H N	66.31 5.30 7.36	66.40 5.27 7.34	66.20 5.16 7.36	
92	$C_{22}H_{21}N_3O_5$ (407)	425, $M^+NH_4^+$ , 25%; 408, $MH^+$ , 100%  ( $DCI/NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.35 (3H, s, Ac), 3.90 (3H, s, OMe), 3.95 (3H, s, OMe), 6.90-7.60 (9H, m)	C H N	64.86 5.20 10.31	64.27 5.15 10.54	64.13 5.15 10.53	
93	$C_{21}H_{18}N_2O_5$ (378)	396, $M^+NH_4^+$ , 15%; 379, $MH^+$ , 100%  ( $DCI/NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 3.90 (3H, s, Me), 4.75 (2H, s, $CH_2$ ), 6.95-7.50 (11H, m)	C H N	66.66 4.79 7.40	66.77 4.80 7.76	66.83 4.82 7.79	

94	$C_{25}H_{25}N_3O_5$ (447)	465, $M^+NH_4^+$ , 15%; 448, $MH^+$ , 100%; 416, $M^+$ - OMe, 20% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 2.00-2.05 (2H, m), 2.43-2.50 (4H, m), 3.75 (3H, s, Me), 4.50 (2H, s, $CH_2Ar$ ), 7.25-7.50 (11H, m)	C H N	67.10 5.63 9.39	66.81 5.44 9.46	66.96 5.42 9.50	
95	$C_{27}H_{29}N_3O_5$ (475)	493 ( $M^+NH_4^+$ , 10%; 476, $MH^+$ , 16%; (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 1.30 (3H, t, Me), 1.70-1.75 (4H, m), 2.40-2.45 (4H, m), 4.20 (2H, q), 4.53 (2H, s), 7.25-7.50 (11H, m)	C H N	68.20 6.15 8.84	68.13 5.95 8.88	68.28 6.00 8.91	
96	$C_{24}H_{24}N_2O_5$	421, $MH^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 1.88 (4H, m), 2.50 (2H, m), 3.77 (3H, s), 4.04 (2H, m), 7.00 (2H, d, $J=8Hz$ ), 7.21 (1H, s), 7.38-7.53 (8H, m)					
97	$C_{23}H_{22}N_2O_5$	424, $MNH_4^+$ , 2%; 407, $MH^+$ , 100%; 291, 71% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3 + CF_3CO_2D$ 1.92 (4H, m), 2.55 (2H, m), 4.09 (2H, m), 7.03 (2H, d, $J=8Hz$ ), 7.24 (1H, s), 7.29 (1H, s), 7.39-7.55 (7H, m)					

98	$C_{23}H_{26}N_3O_3Cl$	392, (M-Cl) <sup>+</sup> , 100%  (ESI + QIMS)	d <sub>6</sub> -DMSO 2.15 (2H, m), 3.20 (2H, m), 3.29 (6H, s), 4.12 (2H, m), 6.77 (1H, s), 6.78 (1H, s), 7.00 (2H, d, J=8Hz), 7.32 (1H, m), 7.40 (2H, m), 7.55 (4H, m), 10.13 (2H, br.s)					
99	$C_{22}H_{24}N_3O_3Cl$	430, 7%; 412, 5%; 478, 100%	d <sub>6</sub> -DMSO 2.85 (6H, s, 2xMe), 3.50 (2H, t, CH <sub>2</sub> ), 4.40 (2H, t, CH <sub>2</sub> ), 6.75-7.55 (11H, m), 10.15 (2H, br.s, 2xNH), 10.75 (1H, v.br.s., NH)					
100	$C_{26}H_{27}N_3O_6$ (477)	495, M <sup>+</sup> NH <sub>4</sub> , 13%; 478, MH <sup>+</sup> , 100%; 446, 15%  (DCI/NH <sub>3</sub> )	CDCl <sub>3</sub> + CF <sub>3</sub> CO <sub>2</sub> D 2.00-2.17 (2H, m), 2.45-2.52 (4H, m), 3.75 (3H, s, Me), 3.88 (3H, s, Me), 4.50 (2H, s), 7.00-7.40 (10H, m)					

101	$C_{20}H_{16}N_2O_5$ (364)	382, $M^+NH_4^+$ , 80%; 365, $M^+ + 1$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$d_6$ -DMSO 4.70 (2H, s, $OCH_2$ ), 6.75-7.55 (11H, m), 10.12 (1H, br.s., NH), 10.17 (1H, br.s., NH)						
102	$C_{22}H_{23}N_3O_3$ (377)	378, $MH^+$ , 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3$ + $CF_3CO_2D$ 3.10 (6H, s, 2xMe), 3.65 (2H, t, $CH_2$ ), 4.40 (2H, t, $CH_2$ ), 6.95-7.50 (11H, m)						
103	$C_{19}H_{15}N_2O_3F$ (338)	339 100% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3$ + $CF_3CO_2D$ 3.91 (3H, s), 7.03 (2H, d), 7.16-7.30 (4H, m), 7.39-7.48 (4H, m)	C H N	67.45 4.47 8.28	67.44 4.37 8.27	67.44 4.32 8.29		
104	$C_{21}H_{19}N_3O_4$ (377)	395, $MNH_4^+$ , 32%; 378, $MH^+$ , 38% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$d_6$ -DMSO 2.04 (3H, s), 4.51 (2H, d), 5.18 (1H, t), 6.72 (1H, s), 6.78 (1H, s), 7.36 (2H, d), 7.50 (4H, m), 7.62 (2H, d)						

105	$C_{19}H_{13}O_2N_3$	316, $MH^+$ , 100%, 201, 53% (DCI/ $NH_3$ )	$CDCl_3$ + $CF_3CO_2D$ 7.25 (1H, s), 7.38 (1H, s), 7.43-7.60 (5H, m), 7.61 (2H, d, J=7Hz), 7.85 (2H, d, J=7Hz)	C H N	72.37 4.16 13.33	72.26 4.21 13.21	72.15 4.20 13.16	.
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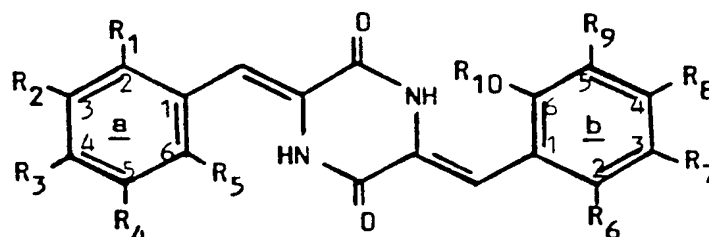
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CLAIMS

1. A diketopiperazine of formula (A):



(A)

wherein each of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$ , which may be the same or different, is independently selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, optionally substituted phenyl, -cyano,  $-CH_2OH$ ,  $-CH_2COOH$ ,  $-CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-NHCOR^{11}$ ,  $-NH SO_2R^{13}$ ,  $-SO_2R^{13}$ ,  $-CON(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-SOR^{13}$ ,  $-SO_2N(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-N(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nN(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2NHCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2NHCOOR^{13}$ ,  $-CH_2SR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2SCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2S(O)_mR^{13}$  wherein  $m$  is 1 or 2,  $-CH_2NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-N(R^{11})COR^{12}$ ,  $-NHCOCF_3$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nOCOR^{11}$  and  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nOR^{11}$  wherein  $n$  is 0 or is an integer of from 1 to 6, each of  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  is independently H or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl and  $R^{13}$  is  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl; or any of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  and  $R_4$  and  $R_5$ , or  $R_6$  and  $R_7$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$ ,  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  and  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$ , form together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached a benzene ring which is optionally substituted; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof; with the exception of compounds wherein:

- (i) each of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  is H;
- (ii)  $R_1$  and  $R_6$  are both Cl and the rest of  $R_2$  to  $R_{10}$  are H;  $R_2$  and  $R_7$  are both Cl and the rest of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  are H;  $R_3$  and  $R_8$  are both Me and the rest of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  are H;  $R_2$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_{10}$  are all Me and the rest of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  are H;  $R_2$ ,  $R_3$ ,  $R_4$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  are all OMe and  $R_1$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$  and  $R_{10}$  are H;
- (iii)  $R_8$  is OMe and the rest of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$  are H; and

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(iv) 3-p-nitrobenzylidene-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione and 3,6-di-p-nitrobenzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein one of  
5  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  is selected from halogen, alkoxy and  $-NHCOR^{11}$  and the other four of  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are H.

3. A compound according to claim 2 wherein  $R^8$  is selected from halogen, alkoxy and  $-NHCOR^{11}$  and  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are H.

10 4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are independently H, nitro or halogen;  $R_3$  is H, hydroxy,  $-O(CH_2)_nN(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nOR^{11}$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-N(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-CH_2NHCO_2R^{13}$ ,  
15  $-CH_2SR^{11}$  or  $NHCOR^{11}$ ;  $R_4$  is H, halogen,  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy,  $-CH_2SCOR^{11}$ ,  $CH_2SR^{11}$  or  $-CO_2R^{11}$  and  $R_5$  is H, nitro or halogen.

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$ , or  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  form, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, an  
20 optionally substituted benzene ring.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein  $R_8$  is  $-NHAc$  wherein Ac is acetyl,  $R_1$  is H or halogen;  $R_2$  is H,  $R_3$  is halogen,  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy,  $-N(R^{11}R^{12})$  or  $-NHCOOR^{13}$ ;  $R_4$  is H;  $R_5$  is halogen or  $CF_3$ ; and  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_9$  and  
25  $R_{10}$  are H.

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein  $R^8$  is OMe,  $R_1$  is H, nitro or halogen;  $R_2$  is H;  $R_3$  is H, hydroxy,  $-OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nOCOR^{11}$  or  $-NHCOCH_2OR^{11}$ ; or  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  form, together with the carbon atoms to which  
30 they are attached, a benzene ring;  $R_4$  is H;  $R_5$  is H or halogen; and  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are H.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ ,  $R_8$ ,  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$  are H;  $R_2$  is H and  $R_3$  is  $-CH_2SR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2SCOR^{11}$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  
35  $-O(CH_2)_nN(R^{11}R^{12})$ , or  $-N(R^{11}R^{12})$  or  $R_2$  is  $-CH_2SCOR^{13}$  or  $-CH_2SR^{11}$  and  $R^3$  is H; and  $R_4$  and  $R_5$  are both H or form, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached,

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a benzene ring.

9. A compound according to claim 1 selected from  
(3Z,6Z)-3-benzylidene-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
5 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2,6-dichlorobenzylidene)-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetoxybenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-  
10 piperazinedione  
3,6-Dibenzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione (mixture of isomers)  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3-nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2-nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-  
15 piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-ethoxybenzylidene)-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-cyanobenzylidene)-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
20 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Aminobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(3-Acetoxybenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Acetoxybenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-  
25 piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3-hydroxybenzylidene)-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
30 (3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Aminobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-  
piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetoxyethylbenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-  
35 piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidomethylbenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-  
piperazinedione

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- (3Z,6Z)-3,6-Dibenzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-butoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-tert-butylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
5 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-isopropoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2,4-difluorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
10 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2-bromobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-methylthiomethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3-thioacetoxymethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
15 3-((3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)methylbenzoic acid, methyl ester  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3-mercaptopmethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
20 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-tert-butoxycarbonylamino benzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-(3-N,N-dimethylaminopropoxy)benzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-thioacetoxymethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
25 (3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(2-chloro-4-hydroxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(3,4-dimethoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
30 4-[(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene]methylphenoxyacetic acid, methyl ester  
4-(4-[(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene]methylbenzylcarbonyl) butanoic acid, methyl ester  
4-(4-((3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)methylbenzylcarbonyl)pentanoic acid, methyl ester  
35 5-[4-((3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)methylphenoxy]pentanoic acid, methyl ester

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- 5-[4-((3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)methylphenoxy]pentanoic acid  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy)benzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione,  
5 hydrochloride  
(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-3-(4-(2-N,N-dimethylaminoethoxy)benzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
4-[(3Z,6Z)-6-Benzylidene-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene]methylphenoxyacetic acid  
10 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-3-(2-nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(2,6-Dichlorobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
15 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Hydroxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
20 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-N-methylacetamidobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methylsulfonylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Butoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
25 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-isopropoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-tert-butylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
30 (3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Bromobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-tert-butoxycarbonylaminomethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
(3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methylthiomethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
35 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methylsulfonylmethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione

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- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(3-thioacetoxymethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Aminomethylbenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- 5 (3Z,6Z)-3-(2,4-Difluorobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(2-trifluoromethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2,4-Dimethoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- 10 4-[(3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene] methylbenzamide
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-trimethylacetoxymethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- 15 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxycarbonylamino benzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(2-Chloro-4-hydroxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetoxyacetylaminobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- 20 (3Z,6Z)-3-(3,4-Dimethoxybenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- 4-((3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-dioxopiperazin-3-ylidene)-4-methylbenzylcarbonyl)butanoic acid, methyl
- 25 ester
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Methoxybenzylidene)-6-(2-naphthylmethylene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Hydroxyacetylaminobenzylidene)-6-(4-methoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- 30 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-benzylidene-2,5-piperazinedione
- (3Z,6Z)-3,6-Di-(3-Nitrobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(2,6-dichlorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- 35 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-chlorobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione
- (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-

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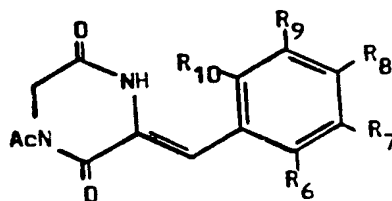
- acetoxyethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(2-fluorobenzylidene)-  
 2,5-piperazinedione  
 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-fluorobenzylidene)-  
 5 2,5-piperazinedione  
 (3Z,6Z)-6-(Benzylidene)-3-(2,4-difluorobenzylidene)-2,5-  
 piperazinedione  
 (3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-3-(2-  
 trifluoromethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
 10 (3Z,6Z)-6-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-3-(2-bromobenzylidene)-  
 2,5-piperazinedione  
 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-  
 trimethylacetoxybenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione  
 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-  
 15 dimethylaminobenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione; and  
 (3Z,6Z)-3-(4-Acetamidobenzylidene)-6-(4-tert-  
 butoxycarbonylaminoethylbenzylidene)-2,5-piperazinedione

10. A pharmaceutical or veterinary composition  
 comprising a pharmaceutically or veterinarily acceptable  
 20 carrier or diluent and, as an active principle, a compound  
 as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

11. A process for preparing a compound of formula  
 (A) as defined in claim 1, the process comprising:

- (a) condensing a compound of formula (I):

25

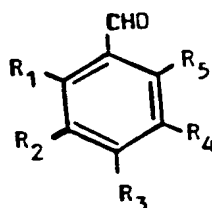


(I)

30

wherein  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are as defined in claim 1 and are  
 optionally protected, with a compound of formula (II):

35



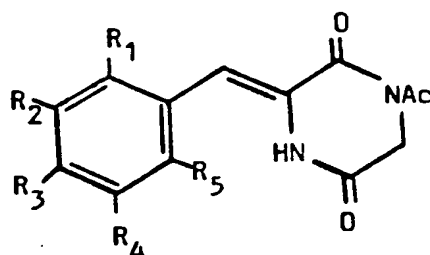
(II)

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wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are as defined in claim 1 and are optionally protected, in the presence of a base in an organic solvent; or

(b) condensing a compound of formula (I'):

5

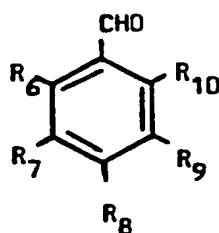


(I')

10

wherein  $R_1$  to  $R_5$  are as defined in claim 1 and are optionally protected with a compound of formula (III):

15



(III)

20

wherein  $R_6$  to  $R_{10}$  are as defined in claim 1 and are optionally protected, in the presence of a base in an organic solvent; and

25

(c) if required, removing optionally present protecting groups, and/or, if desired, converting one compound of formula A into another compound of formula A, and/or, if desired, converting a compound of formula A into a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and/or, if desired, converting a salt or ester into a free compound, and/or, if desired, separating a mixture of isomers into the single isomers.

30

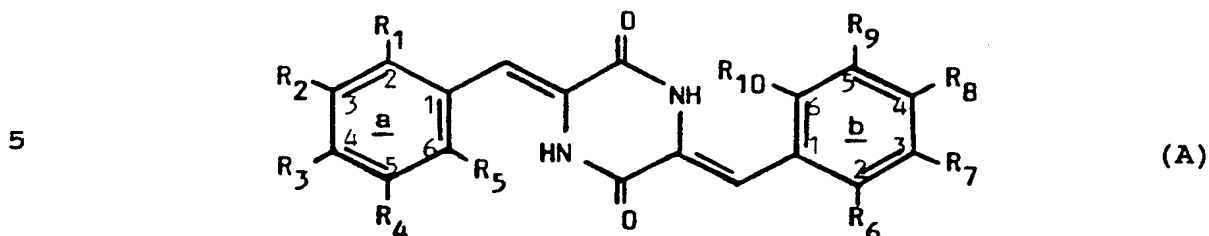
12. A compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 9 for use as an inhibitor of plasminogen activator inhibitor.

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13. Use of a diketopiperazine of formula (A):



wherein each of  $R_1$  to  $R_{10}$ , which may be the same or  
 10 different, is independently selected from hydrogen,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl unsubstituted or substituted by one or more halogen atoms,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkylthio, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, optionally substituted phenyl, cyano,  $-CH_2OH$ ,  $-CH_2COOH$ ,  $-CO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-NHCOR^{11}$ ,  $-NHCO_2R^{13}$ ,  $-SO_2R^{13}$ ,  $-CON(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  
 15  $-SOR^{13}$ ,  $-SO_2N(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-N(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nN(R^{11}R^{12})$ ,  $-O(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2OCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2NHCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2NHCO_2R^{13}$ ,  $-CH_2SR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2SCOR^{11}$ ,  $-CH_2S(O)_mR^{13}$  wherein  $m$  is 1 or 2,  $-CH_2NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-N(R^{11})COR^{12}$ ,  $-NHCOCF_3$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nCO_2R^{11}$ ,  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nOCOR^{11}$  and  $-NHCO(CH_2)_nOR^{11}$  wherein  $n$  is 0 or an  
 20 integer of from 1 to 6, each of  $R^{11}$  and  $R^{12}$  is independently H or  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl and  $R^{13}$  is  $C_1$ - $C_6$  alkyl; or any of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ ,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  and  $R_4$  and  $R_5$ , or  $R_6$  and  $R_7$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$ ,  $R_8$  and  $R_9$  and  $R_9$  and  $R_{10}$ , form together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached a benzene ring which is  
 25 optionally substituted; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof; in the manufacture of a medicament for use as an inhibitor of plasminogen activator inhibitor.

14. Use according to claim 13, wherein the compound is a compound as defined in any of claims 1 to 9.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. Application No  
PCT/GB 93/01734

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 5 C07D241/08 A61K31/495

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 5 C07D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 117, no. 28, 1992, Columbus, Ohio, US; abstract no. 90238v, DU ZHENGMIN ET AL. 'STUDIES ON THE SYNTHESIS OF AMINO ACIDS.XII.' page 777 ;column 2 ;	1-3
X	& CIN. J. CHEM. vol. 10, no. 1 , 1992 , NANJING pages 82 - 88	1-3
X	--- TETRAHEDRON, (INCL. TETRAHEDRON REPORTS) vol. 47, no. 30 , 1991 , OXFORD GB pages 5643 - 5663 TH. T. SHAW ET AL. 'SAFRAMYCIN SYNTHETIC STUDIES' see page 5645 - page 5653; example 8 --- -/--	1

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☐ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
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- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 November 1993

Date of mailing of the international search report

30.11.93

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FRANCOIS, J

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int. onal Application No

PCT/GB 93/01734

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 98, no. 28, 1983, Columbus, Ohio, US; abstract no. 160674z, IAN RAE ET AL. 'THE REACTION OF PIPERAZINES-2,5-DIONES WITH 2-FORMYL BENZOIC ACID' page 511 ;column 1 ; see abstract & AUST. J. CHEM. vol. 35, no. 12 , 1982 , AUSTRALIA pages 2567 - 2569 ---	1
X	CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, vol. 97, no. 6, 1982, Columbus, Ohio, US; abstract no. 40323s, page 70 ; see abstract	1
X	& JP,A,8 247 357 (RICOH CO.) 18 March 1982 -----	1

**information on patent family members**

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